Daily Report
Latin America

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Esquipalas Executive Committee Meets

D'Escoto Opens Meeting

PA171834 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1638 GMT 17 Sep 87

[Speech by Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto Brockman to open the meeting of the Executive Committee under the Guatemala Agreements at Cesar Augusto Silva Convention Center in Managua—live]

[Text] Distinguished foreign ministers of the sister republics of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras; your excellencies special representatives of the International Verification and Follow-up Commission; Mariano Fiallos, president of the Supreme Elections Tribunal; members of the National Assembly Board; Justice Minister Rodrigo Reyes; most distinguished members of the diplomatic corps; honorable delegates; comrades of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Nicaraguan National Assembly; members of the National Reconciliation Commission present here; and comrade deputy ministers, directors, and officials of the Foreign Ministry:

On behalf of the Nicaraguan people and Government and on my own behalf I extend a most warm welcome to Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto, Salvadoran Foreign Minister Ricardo Acevedo Peralta, Guatemalan Foreign Minister Alfonso Cabrera Hidalgo, and Honduran Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras. I also extend a most cordial welcome to Mexican Deputy Foreign Secretary Ricardo Valero, Venezuelan Deputy Foreign Minister German Nava Carrillo, UN Secretary General Representative(Alvaro de Soto), OAS Secretary General Representative (Harry de Levan McBride), and to all chiefs of delegations attending the meetings of ad hoc representatives and of the International Verification and Follow-up Commission; as well as to the friendly delegates of both commissions.

We sincerely want you to feel at home because in Nicaragua those who work for peace and understanding among peoples and governments on the basis of mutual respect and full observance of international laws are never felt to be strangers. On the contrary, they are always received as brothers in this, the homeland of Andres Castro, Dario, Sandino, and Fonseca.

Forty days ago, under the protection of the Black Christ of Esquipulas, hallowed symbol of Central American fraternity and unity, there occurred what history will undoubtedly record as one of the biggest of his many miracles: the miracle of peace and renewed understanding in relations between sister nations, relations which had been dangerously strained by the illegal policy of intervention and force of a big power, which has tried to steer us to achieve its own objectives in the Central American region.

We in Nicaragua have always believed — and the developments of the past few weeks justify that belief — that the links of brotherhood among Central Americans are so strong, and that Central Americans are so closely related by a common history and centuries of tradition that they cannot be permanently affected by foreign policies that do not comprehend or reflect the real desires of our peoples or by foreign policies contrary to the legitimate interests and desires for peace, liberty, and social justice of all the Central American nations.

Today, 166 years after our independence, and 131 years after the glorious San Jacinto Battle, the five Central American foreign ministers are meeting in Managua to promote and guarantee faithful and total compliance with the Esquipulas II agreements within the deadlines established by the Central American presidents in the agreements they signed on 7 August 1987. Since 7 August, the tension and mistrust that prevailed in the Central American relations have been gradually replaced by a new spirit and mentality: the spirit and the mentality of partners in a great common enterprise, the largest enterprise men can undertake, which is peace based on respect and fraternity. With this noble purpose, our governments have solemnly committed themselves to fully assuming the historic challenge of forging a future of peace for Central America; of struggling for peace and eradicating war; of making dialogue prevail over violence, and reasoning over rancor. To achieve these high objectives, the Central American governments have committed themselves to promoting authentic democratic, pluralist and representative democratic processes, which will only have meaning if they include the promotion of social justice, respect for human rights, respect for and defense of national sovereignty and territorial integrity, and lastly, the right of all nations to choose, freely and without any foreign intervention, their own political, economic, and social model.

Ministers and representatives: The agreements signed in Guatemala City on 7 August establish an insoluble link between the objective of democratization and the respect for each country's independence and sovereignty. Since the triumph of the Sandinist people's revolution, the Nicaraguan people have been waving the flag of respect for the full exercise of the right to self-determination as a fundamental and necessary principle for the development of authentic democratic systems. Because of the heroism with which the Nicaraguan people have been defending the inalienable right to self-determination and independence, Nicaraguans have won the respect of all those in the world who love and work for peace. At the same time, however, our categoric and clear defense of this inalienable right of all nations began the main difference with the United States, whose government replied by launching an illegal, cruel, and inhuman war of aggression against Nicaragua through its mercenary forces. The flag of national sovereignty and independence was also the one raised during the national war, during which the most immortal entries were written in the pages of Central American heroism. That same flag was raised once again by the Central American presidents in Guatemala. It is the flag that inspired the Esquipulas II agreements.

The U.S. Government leaders should make an effort to understand the Central American peoples' just demands for peace and respect for our right to self-determination and independence, as well as for respect for all the norms and principles contained in the UN and OAS Charters and under the norms of international justice. Peace in Central America goes hand in hand with the recognition of the fundamental rights of states, regardless of whether they are militarily or economically powerful. Central American people can be friends; they do not, however, accept or understand slavery or subjugation.

Mr Ministers, Mr Representatives: The Esquipulas II agreements establish specific deadlines for fulfilling the commitments. It is our responsibility, as members of the Executive Commission, to make all the necessary efforts so each and every state simultaneously and openly implements the agreements. It is true it is not up to us, nor is it a duty of the Executive Commission, to tell each state how it should get organized or what internal measures it should adopt to ensure that on 5 November the commitments on an amnesty, cease-fire, democratization, end to aid to irregular forces or insurgent movements, and nonuse of one state's territory to attack other states are fully enforced. Nevertheless, it is our duty to remind every government of its obligation to take all steps to fulfill the commitments within the established deadlines.

Nicaragua believes—and it has expressed this on a number of occasions—that the Esquipulas II agreements were signed in good faith and that they reflect the Central American peoples' and governments's desire for peace. Nicaragua will therefore faithfully comply with such agreements. A proof of the seriousness with which the Central American governments have taken the commitments made in Esquipulas II is the fact that, immediately after the Executive Commission was established in San Salvador, we organized in Caracas the International Verification and Follow-up Commission. This was possible thanks to the Latin American support by the Contadora and Support Groups member states and the firm willingness and cooperation of the UN and the OAS secretaries general.

Today, simultaneously with the first Executive Commission meeting, we also are opening the first meeting of the ad hoc representatives of the International Verification and Follow-up Commission. The two meetings clearly show the determination to achieve peace and to make peace possible in Central America. Regardless of how noble and lofty the Esquipulas II agreements are, and regardless of the scope of the agreements, we will accomplish very little if we cannot expedite the preparatory work of the International Verification and Follow-up Commission, which, as its name indicates, has the fundamental duty of verifying compliance with the Esquipulas II agreements and investigating any violations of the agreements.

Precisely because this commission has a fundamental and sensitive mission within the Central American peace process, it is very important that the members of the International Verification and Follow-up Commission hold a second meeting very soon. This meeting could be held in New York at the end of this month, or at the beginning of October, to take advantage of the presence at the United Nations of all the foreign ministers. We could also invite the UN and OAS secretaries general.

Dear counterparts, friends, representatives, and delegates: We hereby want to express our sincere appreciation to the Contadora and Support Groups, because without their unselfish efforts and dedication throughout these years in the search for peace in Central America, it would not have been possible to talk about the Esquipulas II agreements. Without their participation in the International Verification and Follow-up Commission, it would not have been possible to successfully fulfill the commitments made in Guatemala on 7 August 1987. We also wish to express our recognition to the UN and OAS secretaries general for the interest and the cooperation they have provided to this Latin American effort to reestablish peace in Central America.

Dear friends, welcome again to Nicaragua. We hope these efforts for peace will be fruitful for the benefit of all our peoples. We are aware that this is a difficult task and that there is little time to do it. However, with will and determination, we will achieve our goal of peace within the established deadlines.

Thank you very much. [applause]

Ortega Speaks at Ceremony

PA171907 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1707 GMT 17 Sep 87

[Speech by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega to welcome the Central American foreign ministers at the opening of the meeting of the Executive Committee under the Guatemala Agreements at the Cesar Augusto Silva Convention Center in Managua—live]

[Text] [Words indistinct] implement the agreements we signed in Guatemala on 7 August. I want to express my satisfaction [words indistinct]. We are certain that this [words indistinct] Guatemala on 7 August. We say this because we are certain that the interests of this great Central American homeland are above the [words indistinct] and above the policies probably being promoted from abroad. In the particular case of Nicaragua, our interests are above the attitude of the U.S. Government, which insists on more aid, (?$270 million), for the mercenaries [words indistinct].

I see that the best contribution that President Reagan can make to peace in Central America is, precisely, to request that (?$270 million), but to use it to help the Central American countries—Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, [words indistinct] Nicaragua—to promote social programs that our people (?need so much); to promote health, education, social welfare programs [words indistinct].

Therefore, Messrs. foreign ministers, we welcome you to Nicaragua and we ask you to greet your presidents. This is all. Thank you.

Holds News Conference

PA172007 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1713 GMT 17 Sep 87

[News conference held by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega with unidentified reporters at the opening of the meeting of the Executive Commission under the Guatemala Agreements at the Cesar Augusto Silva Convention Center in Managua—live]

[Text] [Question indistinct]

[Ortega] It is very clear any aid, as small as it may be, to the mercenary forces, even if this aid is termed humanitarian, does not contribute to the peace efforts we are making in Central America. Therefore, we hope the U.S. Congress will not continue to yield to this type of demand from the U.S. Government. We hope the U.S. President will once and for all decide to end this aid or immediately suspend the arms shipments the mercenary forces continue to receive. These are arms shipments that continue to result in bloodshed for our people. Children and women continue to die here. You can see that every day. You can see how cooperatives and civilians are being attacked by these mercenary forces.

If the United States, and the U.S. Congress in particular, maintain a firm attitude, they would be contributing to the peace efforts in Central America. By a firm attitude, I mean if they did not approve any type of funds, even if they are called humanitarian.

[Reporter] What will you say at the United Nations?

[Ortega] I expect to be at the United Nations from 7 to 8 October. Of course, we are going to discuss all these topics.

[Reporter] You were invited to the Soviet Union? Will you go Mr President?

[Ortega] I will go to the Soviet Union. The invitation was for the commemoration of the October Revolution's 70th anniversary. I will be there. I think this is something normal. It is a very important date in the history of mankind, just as Independence Day in the United States is a very important date, with the small difference that I never have been invited to the U.S. Indpendence Day festivities. However, I was invited to the Great October Revolution's 70th anniversary.

[Reporter] Would the Nicaraguan Government be willing to implement a unilateral cease-fire?

[Ortega] We are going to comply with the Guatemala agreements. They include a cease-fire, and we will implement this cease-fire when the time comes.

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] We are studying the various ways for a cease-fire.

[Reporter] What is expected of this meeting?

[Ortega] This meeting is very important [words indistinct] 90 days to carry out certain actions. This meeting will discuss new agreements by the Central American governments, through their representatives, in keeping with a document we signed in Guatemala.

It must be taken into account that the implementation of the Guatemala agreement may be interpreted in different ways. For this reason, this meeting [words indistinct] interpretations about the actions, and we must [word indistinct] the different Central American (?models) to achieve peace.

[Reporter] What will Nicaragua propose?

[Ortega] The Nicaraguan foreign minister will [words indistinct]. [Announcer interrupts for station identification]

[Ortega] ...also the representatives of the Contadora and Support Groups, the United Nations, and the OAS confirming the desire for peace we all have. This counters the U.S. President's desire to continue the war, despite the wishes of the Central American governments and the Latin American countries.

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] [Words indistinct] we are seeking a consensus on the topics approved in Guatemala, but an agreement must be reached about their interpretation. Each one may interpret, for example, the amnesty one way and the dialogue in another. Therefore, we must seek a consensus [words indistinct].

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] We hope President Azcona—just as Vice President Sergio Ramirez was informed at the vice presidents' meeting in Tegucigalpa a few days ago—will abide by the Guatemala Agreements. If he does, Honduras will expel the mercenaries and dismantle the camps. Honduras will not permit itself to serve as a base for aggressive operations against our country.

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] The mercenaries have been meeting in Guatemala. They are making statements that are already known. They are saying nothing new. We hope that while they are there, [words indistinct]. In the meantime in Nicaragua, hundreds of Nicaraguans involved in counterrevolutionary activities are seeking amnesty. Therefore, this is important. Those involved in counterrevolutionary activities are turning over their weapons and are going to the reception centers in the various regions to deliver their weapons with all the security and guarantees required. They are seeking amnesty. This is the truth. This is what we will (?respond to). We will not respond to the statements of those who are traveling all over the place.

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] Domestically, we plan to take the necessary steps so those foreigners involved in counterrevolutionary activities can seek the protection of the amnesty with full guarantees [words indistinct].

[Reporter] Do you maintain your decision not to talk with the leadership of...

[Ortega, interrupting] We will not talk with the contras or the leadership [words indistinct]. We are willing to talk with the true leadership, the U.S. Government. We maintain that position.

Cuba

Castro Letter to Olympics Official

FL152101 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1932 GMT 15 Sep 87

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro has sent a letter to Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee [IOC], concerning the 1988 Olympic Games. The letter states: The IOC, you personally, and Cuba have devoted great attention and have made sustained efforts in connection with the 24th Olympic Games and their co-sponsoring by both parts of Korea.

I am certain that you agree that we should continue to take all the necessary steps so as not to derail what so far seems possible to achieve, the letter goes on. If our common aim to obtain an adequate cosponsoring of the forthcoming Olympics should fail, the Olympic movement will have taken a big step backwards, the message adds.

Not only will there be the absence of countries whose number no one could predict right now, but some of those that do participate in the Olympics will do so with a sense of dissatisfaction that will do little to contribute to a better understanding among sportsmen. No one will win and we will all lose, the letter stresses. Likewise, we cannot forget that the unstable conditions prevailing in South Korea are getting worse and that they could seriously affect the organization and realization of the Olympic Games.

Knowing your love of sports, the attention that the IOC has given to the co-sponsoring of the games, and keeping in mind the importance of sports in the world, we insist that all avenues should be exhausted for a just solution that will enable the games to be held based on the principle of cosponsorship. It is above all very important not to make irreversible decisions that would later make it impossible to have the minimum time necessary to find an adequate solution.

Conscious of its obligations in this area, Cuba will also offer friendly advice to the DPRK so that it will not be swayed only by what constitutes its evident right. I believe, and I reiterate, that we should leave the door open and not take a step that might turn out to be irreversible and have irreparable consequences. It is necessary that we all act with complete understanding, serenity, and sanity. Certain that you will consider the full scope of my argument, I reiterate my respect and esteem, Fidel's letter concludes.

Holguin Sugarcane Affected by Drought

FL152018 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 15 Sep 87

[Text] The Holguin Province is one of those most affected by the drought. Only 33 millimeters of rain fell during the month of August. This is not good for the upcoming sugar harvest. The sugarcane fields are dry and, during the month of July, the province reported a loss of approximately 400 million arrobas of sugarcane.

Holguin Province has also reported a drop in its processing of raw materials, and according to the September estimates, a further drop is expected.

The most critical situation is confronted by the Rafael Freyre, Guatemala, Frank Pais, Lopez Pena, and Fernando de Dios sugarmills. More than 340 caballerias of cane at the Fernando de Dios Sugarmill have been affected by the drought. Much of the sugarcane at this mill had been selected for milling.

Despite the difficult situation, the Holguin residents are not giving up and they are implementing new irrigation systems while at the same time, they continue to save water.

Minister Named for Construction Projects

FL141213 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 14 Sep 87

[Text] Due to the magnitude of the construction projects in execution in Havana City Province by the Micons [Ministry of Construction] enterprises and of the need to adopt an administrative management system that will make it possible to deal successfully with the projects under way—inasmuch as no provincial authority existed to date to manage all the province's Micons enterprises—the executive committee of the Council of Ministers has decided to organize the Micons provincial department in the capital.

Comrade Eugenio Nerey Andreu has been appointed to head this new institution. He will also hold the post of vice minister in charge of Micons projects in the capital.

OTHER COUNTRIES

Grenada

Opposition Leader Resigns

FL120208 Bridgetown CANA in English 1427 GMT 9 Sep 87

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Sept 9, CANA—Businessman Phinsley St Louis has resigned as leader of the opposition in the Grenada House of Representatives and has been replaced by economist George Brizan.

The change was announced yesterday during a press conference called by members of the proposed National Democratic Congress (NDC).

St Louis said that since he was appointed leader of the opposition last February, he had persistently, but unsuccessfully, asked Prime Minister Herbert Blaize to supply him with the necessary office and support staff.

Since I am a businessman and the remuneration paid the leader of the opposition is not able to pay staff and rent an office for the post, St Louis said, I find it impossible

for me to continue to do as successful a job as I think I could have.

St Louis said the opposition leader's post needs full-time attention and Brizan, a former government minister, was committed to giving it full attention.

Over the years, Brizan [as received] said, the Grenada parliamentary opposition had been treated with a fair degree of contempt by the government. This had led to undermining of parliamentary democracy, he said, expressing the opinion that, had this been otherwise over the last 30 years, the course of the island's history would have been far different.

The responsibility now on the shoulders of both government and opposition is to behave with maturity, he said, because we have lost a lot of time, and the onus is on the government to treat Her Majesty's loyal parliamentary opposition with respect.

Haiti

Election Controversy Continues

CEP To Create Offices

FL160103 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 15 Sep 87

[Text] The CEP's [Provisional Electoral Council] press office announces that this week the CEP members will visit Haiti's nine geographical departments to make contacts and to take necessary measures to create departmental offices, as stipulated in the electoral law. The departmental offices will be known as the BED [Bureau Electoral Departemental].

Article 2 of the electoral law calls for a departmental electoral office in the chief town of each department. In each commune, there will be a communal electoral office. These offices will have both, administration and enforcement powers.

Last weekend, the CEP contacted several prominent figures in the nine geographical departments for proposals and suggestions regarding personnel recruitment and organization of the departmental offices.

The CEP members are leaving the capital today, Tuesday, and will return Saturday.

The note is signed by CEP Press Director Christophe

CNG Responsible for Situation

FL142110 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 14 Sep 87

[Excerpts] A note from the National Concerted Action Front says: The front which includes the Group of 57 and many coordinating committees from many provinces, and which represents many sectors of the civilian population, points out to the Haitian people that the National Government Council [CNG] is presently doing all it can to further the deterioration of the political situation. [passage omitted]

The National Concerted Action Front wants everyone to understand what lies behind that heavy-handed policy—to understand that the CNG is doing all it can to anger the Haitian people so that the Haitian people will refuse to participate in elections. Then the CNG will organize elections which will not serve the interests of the Haitian people so they can hold on to power after February 1988.

The National Concerted Action Front asks all patriots struggling throughout Haiti to rise up and thwart this plot. The people must continue to mobilize, organize, and work in solidarity. The front says: All patriots, stand your ground. This plot underway, and the insecurity which has spread its wings all over the country, must not be allowed to be succeed.

Victor Benoit, Serges Gilles, (Raymonde Joseph), (Mirto Celestin), and (Joseph Maxi) sign the note for the national secretariat of the Front of National Agreement.

Elections Date Could Change

FL152309 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 15 Sep 87

[Excerpt] At the initiative of Pastor Sylvio C. Claude, president of the Haitian Christian Democratic Party [PDCH] and a presidential candidate, a meeting was held yesterday between the political parties and the members of the Provisional Electoral Council [CEP], at the CEP's headquarters on Rue Pavee.

Four main points concerning the elections to be held in Haiti were discussed at the meeting: the candidacy fees, which the candidates felt were a little high, and which they feared might restrict candidacies; the measures the CEP must take to guarantee the security of candidates during the electoral campaign; what could be done to prevent the people from voting given the little time left, in view of the climate of insecurity currently reigning in Haiti; and the request for formal guarantees regarding Article 291 of the Constitution. They asked that the article be respected.

The CEP answered these and several other questions. They said it was impossible to do anything about the candidacy fees because the law had already been promulgated and could not be changed. Secondly, the CEP said it was created to hold elections, and was therefore going to take all steps necessary to have the authorities do their job so that the Haitian elections would be normal. The CEP also said that it was not obligatory for the presidential election to be held exactly on 29 November. They could, should they encounter problems, postpone it. Nevertheless, the CEP will see to it that the deputies and senators are installed before 11 January 1988, as the Constitution orders. In conclusion, in answer to the question as to whether the election could even be postponed, should there be problems; and in connection with respect for Article 291 of the Constitution, the CEP swore to be vigilant and to see to it that the article is properly applied.

PDCH leader Sylvio Claude proposed that the CEP hold municipal elections after the legislative and presidential elections are held. [passage omitted]

APN Opposes Elections

FL162257 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 16 Sep 87

[Excerpts] The People's National Assembly [APN] has said that no elections are possible under the CNG and the CEP.

[Begin Frantz L. Jean recording] [passage omitted] The CNG has no moral prestige with which to organize elections. The U.S. Government is dictating a number of things to it and this is going to lead to American-type elections. So we say: Down with all dishonest elections. [passage omitted] [end recording]

APN To Boycott Election

FL162209 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil in Creole 1100 GMT 16 Sep 87

[Text] The APN held a press conference yesterday to protest once again the elections to be held in Haiti under the CNG. The APN called the upcoming elections a trap for the Haitian people. This is a very important matter. The APN said that it is going to discuss this affair in its second national assembly, scheduled for 1 through 4 October. The APN also said that it will define its political and economic program at that assembly and it is going to ask the assembly's participants to boycott the upcoming elections.

Regarding the military violence against the population of Raboteau and Gonaives, the APN believes that this falls within the framework of the wave of repression that the government has unleashed against the democratic sector, in order to sow terror and division in Haiti. The APN appealed to the defense organizations and brigades in the various neighborhoods in the capital and provincial towns to resist aggression by the Army—which is going beyond its authority and is anti-people.

PDCH Concerned Over Climate of Insecurity

FL162055 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil in Creole 1100 GMT 16 Sep 87

[Excerpts] In a news release dated 15 September 1987, the Haitian Christian Democratic Party [PDCH] expresses great concern over the acts of repression being committed against the population of the Raboteau and Jubile sections of Gonaives, where the tactical unit of the Dessalines Barracks [of Port-au-Prince] is sowing terror and desolation. They have created an atmosphere of insecurity that has caused the inhabitants of those areas to flee their homes in order to escape the ruffians. [passage omitted]

The PDCH asks the civilian National Government Council [CNG] member, Luc B. Hector, to embrace his responsibility as a citizen in the service of the nation rather than a citizen solely in the service of the army, and struggle with his fellow CNG members—who are members of the Armed Forces—so that urgent measures, capable of putting an end to the genocide being effected in the area, may be adopted.

The PDCH spoke of the round-up organized in the poor sections opposed to the CNG on the pretext that outlaws are being sought. If the government authorities do not stop these things—which they have brought about in Haiti—in time, national and international public opinion will see that this is a maneuver by the current authorities aimed at maintaining a climate of insecurity in order to keep honest elections from being held in peace. [passage omitted]

National Front Supports Gonaives Strike

FL152339 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 15 Sep 87

[Text] A note from the National Concerted Action Front [Fron Nasyonal Konsertasyon] says that the front—which comprises the Group of 57, 18 provincial coordinating committees, and certain sectors of the civilian population—wishes to inform the Haitian people that on Saturday, 12 September, the front's national committee—and, on Sunday, 13 September, the general assembly—pursued the concerted action being carried out ever since Saturday 22 [words indistinct] August with a view to finding a solution to the crisis in the country—to the paralysis that the country has been in since 22 June because of the behavior of the National Government Council and the ministerial cabinet.

The national committee and its general assembly discussed the problem of insecurity in the country, which is worrying the entire society. They also discussed the significance of the aggravation of this situation, for which, they say, the government is responsible—as it is responsible for all the acts being committed in the country.

Thus, the National Concerted Action Front invites the Haitian people to strengthen the organization of its struggles, and to remain mobilized while awaiting a new watchword. The front says that it supports the strike order issued for today, Tuesday, 15 September 1987, by the United Front of Gonaives. The note is signed by Serges Gilles, Victor Benoit, (Mirto Celestin), (Raymonde Joseph), and (Joseph Maxi), for the National Concerted Action Front.

Trinidad and Tobago

NAR, PNM Win Seats in Local Elections

FL151406 Bridgetown CANA in English 1344 GMT 15 Sep 87

[By Debra Ransome]

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Sept 15, CANA—The ruling National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) made gains in local government elections on Monday but

failed to capture the powerful Port-of-Spain municipality from the opposition Peoples National Movement (PNM).

The NAR won two of the four municipalities which were all previously controlled by the PNM and retained six of the seven country councils.

Both sides expressed satisfaction with the results, although some NAR strategists were disappointed not to win the flagship capital city council.

Let them understand today that the PNM has made a significant recovery and we are continuing, PNM leader Patrick Manning told cheering supporters Monday night.

The population has spoken and has spoken quite decisively and has settled the controversy that has been taking place as to whether the NAR was fit to govern or whether the NAR still had the support of the population, Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson told reporters outside NAR headquarters.

Independent analysts generally agreed that both sides had reason for satisfaction. I think the result was a beautiful one in that the NAR was given a bout of confidence...a renewed vote of confidence...but the PNM, with very limited resources,...has shown a measure of resilience, pollster Dr Selwyn Ryan said.

The elections were seen as a key popularity test for the NAR which toppled the PNM, which had ruled for 30 years, in general elections last December. Political watchers were also keen to see whether the PNM had recovered from the 33-3 mauling.

The PNM lost the San Fernando Borough Council for the first time since its formation in 1956 and also the populous and growing Borough of Arima.

The NAR held onto its same four sets on the capital city council whilst the PNM held onto its eight.

Ryan, a University of the West Indies (UWI) social scientist said on radio that the Port of Spain result showed the swing back to the PNM he had detected during the four-week campaign.

I think the Port of Spain seats have run true to form, Ryan said.

The final overall seat count with only one result yet to come in is NAR—78 seats, PNM 46, a gain eight seats to the NAR.

The NAR strengthened its hold on the country councils of St. Andrew/St. David and Nariva/Mayaro, retained all seats in central Trinidad's Caroni County Council, lost two seats but kept control of the Southern Victoria County Council, retained hold of St. Patrick County Council and took control of Arima and San Fernando Borough Councils.

The populous St. George East County Council, often taken as a guage of voting patterns and formerly controlled, remained in NAR hands, again by one seat.

The PNM kept control of the St. George West County Council around the capital by 12-7.

The PNM also held on firmly to the southern Borough of Point Fortin keeping all six seats convincingly.

No official figures on the voter turn-out were released but officials said it was very low turnout on a day hampered by heavy rain and flooding.

Democratizing Current Issues Document
PA170233 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 10 Sep 87 p 5

[Article by Roberto Santiago; passages in italics as published]

[Text] The *Democratizing Current* yesterday handed the PRI leadership a far-reaching document stating that Mexico is now experiencing one of the most tense and decisive moments of its history, because it is burdened by foreign pressures and by the tremendous weight of its foreign debt, injustice, and backwardness, while ignoring its citizens. Although subjugated, the people maintain their fighting spirit and are beginning to rebel against a political system that is increasingly sustained by manipulation and subservience, the document adds.

Therefore, the *democratizers* are demanding that the PRI leadership incorporate the Democratizing Current's *democratic proposal* into the basic electoral platform; that Cuauhtemoc Cardenas be registered as a presidential candidate; and that the views contained in the Democratizing Current's document be submitted for discussion to the party's rank and file members and to the Mexican public.

The proposal warns that despite recent legal amendments, the citizens' trust in the electoral process is decreasing daily, absenteeism is rising, and the people's support for institutions is diminishing. It adds that the dependency of the legislative and judicial branches on the executive branch distorts the constitutional scheme and is the source of constant wrongdoings and broken commitments.

They challenge the PRI and state that, as the party of the revolution, the PRI was born with the commitment to lead the people's causes and to promote the country's democratic development. However, the PRI has become a bastion of growing authoritarianism; it acts more like an instrument to curb and control the rank and file than a spokesman for the people's demands and aspirations.

Democratizers maintain that the constitutional plan was abandoned because the government has radically changed the arrangement of the nation's priorities and has made the high cost of living an official program. The government pretends to fight inflation while it systematically encourages it. This is why today the country is heading in a direction opposed to freedom, autonomy, and justice, which is why we are seeing the transformation of a financial crisis into a national disaster.

Once again, we face a political agenda based on the impoverishment of the majority, speculative capital gain, and national subordination to foreign interests. In the face of severe challenges, the government has not been able to respond appropriately or with enough patriotic determination to defend our nation's heritage.

The *democratizers* believe that the desire to cover an unpayable debt and technocratic shortsightedness have made the accumulation of foreign exchange a national priority, and that concerns for sovereignty, economic growth, the people's hunger, and citizens' dignity are secondary.

In the last 5 years, a debt that is even more serious than the international one has been incurred. It is the social debt owed to the Mexican people, whose essential development resources have been curtailed.

Therefore, the country is undergoing a convoluted period in its history, in which the increasing concentration of income and the irrational decrease in the remuneration for the collective effort lead to a drop in productivity and in our citizens' standard of living. The gap between social classes and strata is leading us to a colonial model of castes and segregation.

The democratizers believe that what is really taking place is a structural change in which the objectives of economic and social integration have been placed by growing poverty and an increase in national enclaves.

In recent years, the creative dimension of political tasks has been lost and been replaced by arbitrariness and opportunism. It has been forgotten that the strength of authority lies in its moral appeal and in its capacity to mobilize social energies to undertake goals and objectives freely agreed upon by the people.

It is true, the *democratizers* point out, that the country will not dissolve in our hands, because it is sustained by the Mexicans' imagination, perseverance, and hard work. However, what is being lost is the citizens' faith in prevailing methods, ability of our leadership, and the feasibility of current programs designed to resolve national problems and to preserve our independence.

In light of this situation, the *democratizers* state that they went to meet with many compatriots who, like them, are firmly determined to wage a historic battle for the country's political and economic democratization, the recovery of its sovereignty, and the construction of a nation that will justly benefit everyone. This is why the proposal is being submitted today for public debate and for consideration by their fellow party members and to all citizens willing to become politically involved.

In this regard, they propose the defense of citizens' rights, guarantees for effective suffrage, a strengthening of political parties, democratization of the communications media, an effective division of government branches and a return to a balance of power, a renewal of federalism, municipalization of the Federal District, eradication of corruption, and respect for the rights of minorities. The antinational trends established by the oligarchies must be reversed. That is why a democratic and popular plan is needed to recover full control over our political, economic, social, and cultural processes, and to firmly promote the country's integration and autonomy.

They also demand that the financial drain be halted by suspending payment for the servicing of the debt, or by establishing a limit on those payments; the reduction of

interest rates to free necessary resources for development, a halt to the foreign penetration that occurs through indiscriminate authorization and investments, a review of our relations with the United States; and, therefore, the protection of Mexicans living abroad.

Government Allots $1 Billion To Program

PA161757 Mexico City EL NACIONAL in Spanish 11 Sep 87 p 1

[By Renato Davalos]

[Excerpt] Guadalajara, 10 September—The Federal Government will allot more than $1 billion to the industrial reconversion program. The petrochemical sector will receive just over 50 percent of those funds for its various projects, Mauricio de Maria y Campos, under secretary for industrial development at the Secofi [Secretariat of Commerce and Industrial Development], told El Nacional yesterday.

De Maria said Mexico must adjust to its current needs and keep up with the pace of international changes. Otherwise, he warned, the technical and productive gap between Mexico and other nations will be widened.

He also explained that with regard to industrial reconversion, "we cannot imitate foreign plans. We must establish our own pattern of development."

The Secofi official was interviewed after participating in the Sixth Industrial Fair at which prizes for quality were presented to 194 national and foreign firms.

De Maria said nonoil exports increased by 50 percent during the first half compared to the same period in 1986. Nevertheless, he stressed the need to increase investments in productive industries or to channel "the resources floating around in the stock market" to production. [passage omitted]

Panama

Noriega Criticizes Plan To 'Destabilize' Nation

PA180222 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Sep 87

[Text] The commander in chief of the Defense Forces returned last night. He was welcomed by cabinet ministers, legislators, friends, and members of his general staff. Upon his arrival at the Panamanian Air Force terminal, the high-ranking military officer made the following statements:

[Begin recording] [Noriega] When we arrived here we saw the plan to destabilize Panama, which includes a section on misinformation. Panama is living with aggression and I have charged that this aggression against Panama includes a misinformation plan. $18 million is being invested in this plan, and this includes agencies [not further identified] men, and news items to which Panama cannot reply. The Mexican people, who are patriotic, nationalist people with a long history of offenses, supported Panama wholeheartedly.

[Reporter] We have reports that there was proof of Mexican support for Panama.

[Noriega] Look, this is something unbelievable, during the [Mexican] independence festivities, a group of people, not Panamanians, went out on the street carrying flags and chanting slogans to support Panama. They picketed and carried out other actions to show that virile countries remain, and virile men are the ones who remain in power. [end recording]

Further on CNN Reporter's Expulsion

PA171423 Paris AFP in Spanish 0452 GMT 17 Sep 87

[Text] Panama, 16 Sep (AFP)—The Panamanian Government today asked CNN correspondent Lucia Newman to "leave the country as soon as possible," warning if she does not "she will be subjected to abuse and humiliation."

Newman was summoned at midday today by Osvaldo Gudino, communications director at the Government and Justice Ministry, who informed her of the government's decision. A Justice Ministry source told AFP Newman would have to leave within 12 hours, but the reporter denied this deadline had been set.

"He told me if I do not leave the country as soon as possible, I will be mistreated and humiliated," said Newman, who nevertheless seemed hopeful "the government will reverse its decision."

The U.S. reporter, who has lived in Panama for the past 2 years, was accused on 12 August by Panama Defense Forces Chief General Manuel Antonio Noriega himself of "contributing to disinformation" regarding the crisis that has shaken the country. "I have not been given an explanation for this decision," Newman said, adding that in the past few months she has been attacked by the government as well as by the opposition Civic Crusade, which is struggling to oust Noriega.

Newman said her boyfriend, Demetrio Olaciregui, correspondent of the Mexican newspaper *Excelsior* and news director of the government Radio Nacional, was dismissed from the latter post last Monday. "Both the opposition and the government have been making charges against us and pressuring us to support their positions," Newman said.

Since the Panamanian crisis broke out 4 months ago, the government has intensified its controls on the press, closing three newspapers and three radio stations on 27 July. The government accused the *La Prensa*, *El Siglo* and *El Extra* newspapers and the Sonora, KW Continente, and Mundial radio stations of supporting the opposition's "seditious coup attempts."

Government Denies Actions

PA180234 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0153 GMT 18 Sep 87

[Text] Panama City, 17 Sep (ACAN-EFE) The Panamanian Government today denied that U.S. journalist Lucia Newman has been ordered to leave Panama "as soon as possible," as she told ACAN-EFE yesterday.

The Government and Justice Ministry has explained that Newman, Cable News Network's (CNN) correspondent here, has violated a law on foreign journalists by continuing her activities without being duly registered.

However, the journalist believes that her "latest sin" was to have reported on the violence that resulted from an opposition march in the outskirts of the capital this past Sunday. As a result of the violence one person died and several other were wounded by bullets.

Newman said that she saw how Carlos Guzman Baules, 49, died, and how "progovernment paramilitary" elements broke-up the demonstration with bullets, and she told what she saw to CNN.

Meanwhile, the Government and Justice Ministry stated in an explanatory document that Newman was registered in Panama as a foreign journalist of the U.S. television network until 15 August. The ministry added: "Lucia Newman continued sending reports abroad after that date and many times she did not report the truth about the true political and social situation in the country, and this journalist was not duly registered."

The National Media Directorate on 16 September summoned the U.S. journalist to inform her "that she cannot continue functioning as a foreign correspondent in our country."

The official source said that as long as the U.S. journalist "keeps her current status with the Immigration Department effective, she can continue living in the nation."

The media directorate has stated that "it is important to state that CNN is free to appoint another foreign correspondent to Panama as long as he complies with Panamanian laws regulating journalism."

Lucia Newman is chief of the Latin America section of CNN. She has been living in Panama for the past 18 months.

Ministry Responds to Embassy Note on Miller

PA180050 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Sep 87

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has responded to a note from the U.S. Embassy regarding the incidents of Sunday, 13 September, in San Miguelito district.

In his note, Foreign Minister Jorge Abadia points out that the Foreign Ministry regrets the arrest of U.S. commercial adviser David Miller but at the same time notes that this U.S. official was arrested while participating as a private citizen in a political demonstration, the objective of which was replacing the Panamanian Government by a de facto regime.

In his note, the foreign minister notes that Article 41 of the Geneva Convention states that people who enjoy diplomatic privileges and immunity must respect the laws and rules of the host state and that they have the obligation not to meddle in the domestic affairs of that state.

The Foreign Ministry document states that the Panamanian Government has irrefutable evidence that Mr Miller was participating in the demonstration not as an observer but as a private citizen.

The foreign minister's note concludes by asking the U.S. Embassy to order its personnel to abstain from participating in and being partial with demonstrations aimed at overthrowing the constituted branches of the Panamanian state. The document also states that regarding the incident of Sunday, 13 September, adequate measures will be adopted as a result of the investigations that have been carried out.

PDC's Arias: No National Dialogue Possible

PA160443 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 15 Sep 87

[Text] Ricardo Arias Calderon, president of the Panamanian Christian Democratic Party [PDC], has said that under the current situation, no national dialogue is possible.

[Begin recording] [Arias] We have maintained and will continue to maintain a profoundly nonviolent attitude, because we do not want Panama to have to endure the destruction and death that other sister nations are experiencing. The sole way to guarantee this is to make the deep changes the people are demanding and to make them now, through peaceful means.

[Reporter] Is there currently any kind of rapprochement between the government and the opposition?

[Arias] None at all, because there cannot be a rapprochement with a regime that threatens the media and keeps it closed. [end recording]

El Salvador

Acevedo on Central American Cooperation

PA160010 San Salvador Canal Cuatro Television in Spanish 1130 GMT 14 Sep 87

[Interview with Foreign Minister Ricardo Acevedo Peralta by unidentified reporters on the "Face to Face" Program—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Reporter] Doctor, this weekend it was reported that there was a request to postpone the meeting of foreign ministers that was to have taken place 16-17 September. We have been told that El Salvador seconded this request. What can you tell us about this?

[Acevedo] I believe the problem is that we do not want to have the meeting in Managua of the five Central American foreign ministers executive commission coincide with the meeting of the ad hoc committee of the International Verification and Follow-up Commission composed of the five foreign ministers, the Contadora and Support Groups ministers, and the OAS and UN secretaries general.

I believe that this is why we do not want the two meetings to coincide, because they have different objectives. The executive committee, which controls and develops the encouragement of the peace plan process, has to inform the ad hoc commission so it has a reference framework handled and supplied by the executive commission, composed by the five Central American foreign ministers. At no time should the five Central American foreign ministers lose control and the initiative in the structuring of the frameworks that serve as guidelines for verification and control by the follow-up commission. This is why the dates have been changed, so both meetings do not coincide on the same day. It would be very difficult for the executive committee to lend documents to inform the ad hoc commission if both are working at the same time and practically in the same room.

[Reporter] Was this not known beforehand?

[Acevedo] Yes, indeed. The 16-17 September executive commission meeting of Central American foreign ministers was planned beforehand, with the ad hoc meeting planned for 18-19 September. However, after consulting for about 3 days, Foreign Minister D'Escoto said yesterday in Guatemala that they had problems with the Contadora and Support Groups, because of their commitments with the 1987 opening of the UN General Assembly on 19 September. This caused a date problem, but we have already resolved this. It seems like the executive commission is going to meet on 17-18 September, according to what Foreign Minister D'Escoto was telling me; and the ad hoc commission on 18-19 September. This gives us 1 day in between for the executive commission to inform the ad hoc commission.

[Reporter] Doctor, do you believe Nicaragua is going to be able to comply with the timetable agreed to at Esquipulas II?

[Acevedo] I believe Managua is making a great effort to comply. I do not know if it is sincere or if it is part of their political strategy. This is an important point to discuss and debate. The fact remains that we are all running against time—the time allowed is very short—and we have to adequately boost all these commitments.

[Reporter] Do you feel they have complied so far?

[Acevedo] All the important points have been complied with. However, we are not interested in Nicaragua complying bit-by-bit with partial steps. What is wanted is a general concept of sincerity and honesty with all and each of the countries complying after 90 days. Not until then shall we be able to say if a country or government has adequately complied—not before. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Doctor, on 15 September the dialogue was to have taken place; obviously it will not take place. Could you tell us about the obstacles against this dialogue taking place? Also, would you give us your opinion on President Cerezo's statements that the dialogue should not be conditioned? [Acevedo] That dialogue was not arrived at, because the FMLN-FDR has not accepted the present institutional framework of the Central American countries. We have clearly asked the FMLN-FDR to accept the Esquipulas II plan because they should accept it. The Esquipulas II plan is not a precondition; it is a framework upon which the present Central American dialogue is based. It is a framework that deep down is a call for irregular groups to accept. In practically all the peace plan points, there is a tacit or definite reference to irregular groups. This means that they are part of a whole scheme and process encompassed within the peace plan, even though they have not signed it. For example, regarding the call to cease hostilities, irregular and insurgent groups are mentioned regarding the cessation of hostilities. It calls upon rebel and insurgent groups to accept this type of agreement, this peace plan.

It is the same regarding amnesty. Simultaneously with the amnesty decrees, irregular forces of the respective countries should free all those people who are being held; and so on. In many of the articles of the peace plan, irregular forces are mentioned as integral parts of this peace process; and we insisted on this.

[Reporter] Why do you think President Cerezo issued these statements?

[Acevedo] I do not know what President Cerezo was referring to,maybe to the conditions Major D'Aubuisson referred to in a recent interview he gave concerning the chronological and simultaneous of conditions in each country.

[Reporter] I do not think President Cerezo was referring to that.

[Acevedo] I also do not believe he was referring to this, because Cerezo has signed a document in which he calls for the irregular groups to join this process.

[Reporter] What do you think of the ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] motion proposal regarding a partial amnesty instead of a total amnesty?

[Acevedo] I believe this is why an amnesty commission has been named—so the draft amnesty be the result of a national consensus, a much more general consensus then one that a single party could propose. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Doctor, what if Esquipulas II fails—has an alternative been contemplated?

[Acevedo] The important things are the presidents' spirit to untiringly seek peace, and the part at the end of the Esquipulas II document itself, where it says that within 150 days the final report will be submitted by the verification and follow-up commission and the presidents, once informed by the verification and follow-up commission, will make the necessary decisions. This means that a door has been left open in the immedaite future to continue in the search for peace. We do not assume that in 90 or 120 days all will have been concluded, because as President Arias himself has said, it is very difficult to comply with so many things in such a short time.

[Reporter] Just one last question: Why do you think President Reagan proposed his plan at the same time—simultaneously—when the Central American presidents were meeting?

[Acevedo] I believe the United States did not want to remain behind in formulating a peace plan under the bilateral and bipartisan terms in which they were proposed. Fortunately, President Reagan's peace plan coincides in most of the goals with the multilateral plan that we Central Americans seek. The objectives are the same: agreements that result from internal dialogue that guarantees democracy through a process of control and verification. Congressman Wright and President Reagan's plan sought the same as we did.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Acevedo] No, because the methods are dialogue and negotiatiton. The different methods lies in that one is a multilateral plan in which all the Central American countries promise to make the same deicisions, and the other is a bilateral plan—a plan that only involves Nicaragua and the United States. This plan had a very important clause: Bilateral negotiations would resume immediately between the United States and Nicaragua. We spoke nothing of this topic.

Duarte on Rebels, 'Spirit' of Peace Plan

PA162311 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 16 Sep 87

[Report by Marco Antonio Guevara]

[Text] Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte said on Tuesday [15 September] that he believes that President Oscar Arias' mediation will succeed in making the Salvadoran guerrilla movement recognize the Esquipulas II plan. Duarte made these statements to this newscast at the end of the Independence Day ceremonies held at Libertad Park.

[Begin Duarte recording] I hope the guerrillas accept the Esquipulas II agreement signed in Guatemala and interpret it in accordance with the spirit of the peace plan. The basic idea is that the peace plan must be interpreted in only one way. All the Central American countries must conclude that the sole interpretation of the agreement is that we do not speak of war, but of peace, that war must be eradicated, that the Central American groups up-in-arms—whether they are guerrillas or contras—must accept the Central American peace plan, renounce violence and war, lay down their weapons, and join the democratic process. That is what the Central American peoples demand. That demand is also made of all those countries that try to support and interfere in the Central American democratic processes. We ask those nations to renounce those attitudes and to join the democratic process. [end recording] Regarding rumors about the dialogue taking place in 15 days, President Duarte said that dates are unimportant, that the important matter is for the rebels to finally choose peace instead of war, as should be done. Asked about the possible return of FDR leader Ruben Zamora, President Duarte said:

[Begin Duarte recording] The first thing he must do is to say that he gives up all links and ties with the guerrilla movement, war, destabilization efforts, and sedition. If he agrees to that, we will grant him amnesty, and if we grant him amnesty, he can easily return to El Salvador to join the political process, to form his political party, and to work. If he wants to return under his own conditions, without accepting the basic conditions, without giving up violence or his connection with the Salvadoran guerrillas, and if he wants to continue destabilizing and promoting sedition in the country, then El Salvador will apply its laws through the attorney general and its judges. [end recording]

The presidents of the three branches presided over the ceremonies commemorating the 166th anniversary of Central America's independence held at Libertad Park. The ceremonies were also attended by diplomats accredited in the country. Wreaths were laid before the monument to freedom, and 1 minute of silence was observed to honor those who have died at war.

Government Urges Guerrillas Accept Amnesty

PA160102 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1100 GMT 15 Sep 87

[Text] Jose Napoleon Duarte's government insists that the Salvadoran guerrilla leaders who want to return to the country and rejoin political life must give up violence and accept amnesty. Government spokesman Edmundo Viera said that the Duarte government views as positive the statements made by FDR leader Ruben Zamora to the effect that he wishes to return to the country and

rejoin democratic life. However, Deputy Communications Minister Viera clearly said that Zamora's return should be understood within the context of Esquipulas II.

According to the U.S. weekly *Newsweek*, Zamora—who has been living in exile in Nicaragua since 1980—plans to return to El Salvador before the Esquipulas II agreement goes into effect on 7 November. Zamora, who was the Salvadoran guerrillas' political representative during discussions with the Costa Rican president, added that his return depends on the negotiations between the Duarte government and the guerrillas. However, Viera said that the Duarte government's stand on the return of guerrilla political or military leaders should be viewed within the context of Esquipulas II.

The FMLN-FDR leaders are responsible for several crimes that have been commited in the country; therefore, they must enter the country accepting amnesty and abandoning violence, Viera emphasized. The Duarte government has been inflexible in demanding that the FMLN-FDR fully accept Esquipulas II, which entails giving up violence and joining democratic life. Although the rebels have not flatly rejected this, they have not explictly accepted Esquipulas II, as Duarte is demanding. This has made it impossible to hold a dialogue and agree on a cease-fire.

The rebels, who are requesting a dialogue without preconditions, have begun a diplomatic offensive and have met twice with Costa Rican President Arias and Panamanian President Eric Delvalle. It was reported in San Jose yesterday afternoon that President Arias had talked with the Salvadoran guerrillas for 4 hours, while he kept Salvadoran President Jose Napoloen Duarte on the telephone line. At the end of the meeting, both Arias and Guillermo Ungo—representing the political branch of the guerrillas, the FDR—agreed that important progress has been made.

NOTIMEX Interviews Rebel Leader Zamora

FL031844 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1623 GMT 3 Sep 87

[By correspondents Jesus Guevara and Epigmenio Ibarra]

[Text] Managua, 3 Sep (NOTIMEX) — Salvadoran rebel leader Ruben Zamora has asserted that the Guatemala agreement is a positive step in the search for peace in Central America, taking into account, of course, the specific situation in each country. The rebel leader also asserted that his group is taking all necessary steps to open dialogue in their country.

Zamora, member of El Salvador's FDR, said in an interview for NOTIMEX that the peace dynamics in Central America are strong. This brings them into conflict with the dynamics of war, represented mainly by the Reagan administration. In this confrontation, he said, the Guatemala accord signifies an important moment.

He observed that the Guatemala plan essentially states that peace in Central America must be achieved on the basis of full democracy, social justice and national independence — the same thing, he asserted, for which the Salvadoran insurgents are fighting.

He pointed out that Esquipulas II also states that dialogue is necessary in the solution of conflicts, and noted that in the case of El Salvador, since 1981, and especially since 1984, the FDR and the FMLN have been insisting on the need for dialogue to find a negotiated political solution in his country.

Zamora was asked if it was not a blow to the Salvadoran rebels that the Guatemala peace plan established that dialogue would be held only with the opposition that laid down their weapons. He replied that in the case of his country, the dialogue between the government and the FDR-FMLN had begun before the signing of Esquipulas II.

In a country such as El Salvador, where President Jose Napoleon Duarte himself sat down with the FDR and the FMLN, no government can now use the Guatemala plan as a pretext to prevent the achievement of peace in El Salvador, Zamora asserted. He added that it would be absurd and negative to now interpret the Guatemala accord as a step back in the case of his country. Zamora declard that the search for peace through the Guatemala accord was a positive development, but he also said that the specific situation of each one of the Central American countries must be taken into account. President Duarte recently devised a 3-point plan in which he said he would meet with the Salvadoran rebels on 15 September if they agreed to the Guatemala plan, the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries talked with the Sandinist government at the same time, and the Salvadoran rebels accepted amnesty.

In this connection, the rebel leader pointed out that they had accepted the date proposed by President Duarte. They had also suggested a venue and proposed there be two days of talks to include the Guatemala peace plan on the agenda in reference to democratic measures, a cease-fire, and the continuation of talks.

He stated they have been in touch with several governments to start preparing the meeting and that a South American nation has even offered the use of a plane to transport the FDR delegation and officials from other nations that have offered diplomatic services.

However, he said the problem they see is that President Duarte has to take specific steps also and that the first one should be to sit down with the intermediary, San Salvador Archbishop Arturo Rivera y Damas, who has asked for an appointment and has yet to get one.

Rejecting reports that the Salvadoran Armed Forces do not want a dialogue because they feel certain they are winning, Ruben Zamora explained that the fact that the Salvadoran Armed Forces had to move 80 percent of their troops from various positions is an indication that the government is not faring too well on the battlefield.

Regardless, he pointed out, there is a strong move toward peace in Central America — the people want peace and the degree of independence and sovereignty they deserve. In view of this, Zamora declared that all Central American forces must assume a positive stance toward the Guatemala resolution so that these agreements, which set forth general intentions and objectives, may become a reality.

Zamora was asked if these peace dynamics in Central America undercut the Salvadoran rebels' chances for development and for creating a social base. He answered that on the contrary, they allowed a broadening of the social base because the FMIN and the FDR have practiced and continue to practice a consistent policy regarding the need for a negotiated political solution between the parties in conflict in his country.

However, he admitted that there are gaps in the Guatemala peace plan, saying it was not thorough because it had been drafted in only 2 days. He then asserted that it is a general blueprint for the whole area and that is why it does not fit exactly when individual countries are considered.

He said an example was the fact that only the legally constituted political parties had been called to make up the national reconciliation commission. He stated that in the case of El Salvador, national reconciliation is not only a job for the government, the FMIN-FDR, or the political parties, but a national endeavor in which all political and social sectors, the labor movement, and the private business organizations, among others, had to be represented.

He stressed that as allies, the FDR and the FMIN wondered if the Guatemala plan contributed to peace in El Salvador. They have made their views public and will also soon make their decisions public.

He then asserted that the FDR is trying to increase its participation in political life as much as possible, but noted that the repression exiting in El Salvador is a deterrent.

Denying that this might imply a crack in the FDR-FMIN alliance, Zamora said that it is obvious and evident that El Salvador needs political outlets for its popular sectors that truly represent their interests.

Concerning the possibility that the Salvadoran rebels accept to lay down their arms, Zamora stated that this was unrealistic because it would be akin to having the FMLN say that it was ready to negotiate if the government's army laid down arms. Dialogue and negotiation are meant precisely to see how the country's conflict can be settled.

He also denied that the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries and the FMLN were handling their situations in the same way since they were both irregular or insurrectional forces. He explained that they are similar because they are both fighting the government of their respective countries, but that other than that, they are completely different because of the individual characteristics of each conflict.

Citing an example, he said that the counterrevolutionaries are financed, managed, and trained by the United States, in such a way that if President Reagan says the contras are finished, they will disappear in a matter of weeks because they depend totally on the U.S. Government. The whole world could tell the FDR-FMIN, more specifically the FMLN, to quit, but if the commanders and combatants do not decide themselves to quit, the FMLN would continue since it is a wholly Salvadoran movement.

Second, he added, the contras are an armed movement whose base is outside the country. If sanctuaries for the contras did not exist in Honduras, where they receive American support and where their leaders stay, there could be no counterrevolution in Nicaragua, whereas the FMLN is inside El Salvador, operates from within the country, and that is where the FMLN commanders are, he explained. Third, he pointed out, the counterrevolution means a return to the past, to Somozism, to those who have left, whereas in El Salvador the FDR-FMLN means the future, what the country can aspire to be if there is a system based on democracy, freedom, and social liberty.

Armed Forces Launch "Operation Concord"

PA150325 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 12 Sep 87 p 1

[Text] Colonel Mauricio Ernesto Vargas, Armed Forces Staff operations chief, has reported that the Salvadoran Armed Forces will soon mobilize approximately 40,000 well-armed men—most of whom received guerrilla warfare training in the United States—to launch the new "Operation Concord." The operation's tactics will include increased aggressiveness against the armed rebel groups and implement the portion of the Esquipulas II agreement that corresponds to the military sector.

Col Vargas explained that "Operation Concord" will be carried out at the national level, and the first phase—which involves defining the command posts and the mobilization of troops—has already begun. The next phase is the most important one and involves direct contact with the rebels in the most dangerous zones. Col Vargas said that the operation will be more successful than the "Jose Domingo Monterrosa Barrios Operation," which has been carried out for some months in the northern zones of San Miguel, Morazan, and La Union Departments. This operation has resulted in the annihilation of FMLN guerrilla groups, "which now avoid contact with the Army and instead carry out terrorist activities against civilians and sabotage the national economy's infrastructure."

Col Vargas added that the Armed Forces units participating in "Operation Concord" will effectively implement new combat tactics using light assault weapons.

Small groups will be sent out to "hit" the enemy and then regroup to continue "hammering" through their tactics in different sectors until the conflict-ridden zones are cleaned out. He added that the mobilized troops will also implement the Esquipulas agreement points that allow the guerrilla fighters to join the country's political process.

The Armed Forces Staff operations chief revealed that weapons to modernize the Army's current equipment, particularly the equipment for the the antiriot forces, which are in charge of controlling and disrupting street riots, will soon arrive in the country. He said that the equipment will include shields, rifles with telescopic sights, fire extinguishers, etc. Col Vargas also gave ample details about the results attained by the "Jose Domingo Monterrosa Barrios Operation."

Col Mauricio Ernesto Vargas said the "FMLN-FDR members are fools" if they decide to reject the Arias peace plan or develop it in any other way, because that is entirely another matter."

The top-level military leader said that the Armed Forces are interested in attaining peace, "and if we are clearly aware of our goals, we should help attain peace; whoever decides not to seek peace will be the loser. If the FMLN-FDR act this way, they will definitely be the losers." The military officer, who doubts that the FMLN will abide by a cease-fire, announced the new operation and emphasized the success of the "Jose Domingo Monterrosa Barrios Operation"— which is currently being carried out in the eastern sector of the country and has caused hundreds of FMLN deaths.

According to Col Vargas, ideas that contradict the people's beliefs are rejected; because Marxism-Leninism is contrary to our beliefs, we reject it. He said: "Consequently, the FMLN does not accept the Guatemala agreement. Furthermore, the Armed Forces accept the political points of the Esquipulas II agreement and the political-military decisions this implies, because we will follow the orders of the Armed Forces High Command and the political-military decision-making powers concerning a cease-fire."

Newspaper Urges Continued U.S.Contra Aid

PA151609 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 14 Sep 87 p 7

[Editorial: "Aid to the Contras Is Guarantee for Peace"]

[Text] The continuation of U.S. aid to the Nicaraguan freedom fighters, also known as the "contras," is a much discussed topic on this continent.

On repeated occasions, the U.S. Democratic Party has opposed U.S. assistance in liberating Nicaragua. With the signing of the Esquipulas II agreement, the Democrats have one more argument to oppose the aid. The current aid package will end on 30 September, and the "contras" will be left without that important support for continuing their struggle for freedom and democracy in their nation. According to experts, the Esquipulas agreement has weak points. It is ambiguous and does not have mechanisms to guarantee its fulfillment. Under these conditions, the continuation of U.S. aid to the Nicaraguan insurgents is a guarantee so the Sandinists will honor the Guatemala agreement.

Under the current circumstances, President Reagan's proposal for maintaining the aid in case peace is not achieved in Central America is the most sensible decision.

Guatemala

Cerezo Speaks at Independence Day Ceremony

PA170457 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2348 GMT 15 Sep 87

[Text] Guatemala City, 15 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—At the ceremonies commemorating the 166th anniversary of Central American independence from Spain, Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo said that in Guatemala, "we want to build peace and democracy to deliver a message to Central America."

In his official speech delivered before thousands of students and the general public at the "Mateo Flores" National Stadium, President Cerezo proclaimed today as "National Unity Day."

Cerezo said that "all Guatemalans are united to struggle for the construction of a democracy that provides happiness and well-being for everyone."

He honored "all those men and women who have surrendered their lives, blood, and will to the construction of a homeland that is an example for the rest of the world to follow."

President Cerezo asserted that "the Guatemalan people are building a democratic society in which disagreements, hatred, and confrontations are overcome, and a lasting peace is established."

"There are now no disagreements, because we are all united here to serve the dream that encouraged the heroes of our independence in 1821, who started building a Guatemala in which we can all live happily," Cerezo added.

He stressed that "we want to build peace and democracy to send a message to all Central American nations, because before other nations of the world, Guatemala is now an example of what we ourselves can build along the path of peace."

President Cerezo's speech closed the ceremonies commemorating Guatemala's independence from Spain in 1821. The ceremonies began with a great civic and military parade, from the heroes monument to the national stadium.

Thousands of high school students marched along La Reforma Avenue on the southeast end of Guatemala City behind squads of the "politecnica" and "Adolfo V. Hall" military schools.

From an improvised stand, President Cerezo and his wife, Raquel Blandon de Cerezo, Guatemalan Vice President Roberto Carpio Nicolle, and various ministers watched the students as they marched along with their bands.

Foreign Minister Alfonso Cabrera Hidalgo, along with the Central American ambassadors, hoisted the flags of their respective countries at the "Mateo Flores" National Stadium, while elementary school students performed rhythmic gymnastic exercises.

The ceremonies were conducted normally, while the police and the Army patrolled the areas surrounding the stadium where the independence ceremonies were being held.

Gramajo Sees 'No Impediment' for Communists

PA102208 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0033 GMT 10 Sep 87

[Text] Guatemala City, 9 Sep (DPA) — Guatemalan Defense Minister General Hector Alejandro Gramajo said today that there will not be any impediment for the operation of a communist party in Guatemala, "because in this manner, (the communists) would find out if the people reject them or support them."

Defense Minister Gramajo made the statement to the press today to answer a communique issued today by URNG in which they again urge the government to initiate a dialogue with the guerrillas, according to the provisions of the peace document for Central America signed by the five presidents of the area on 7 August.

URNG also asks that the civilian self-defense patrols (organized by the Army) be dissolved, and that the persons responsible for the thousands of Guatemalans that are missing or kidnapped be punished.

Meanwhile, Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo said today that a preliminary exchange between the guerrillas and the government might be accomplished through the National Reconciliation Commission, established by the Central American peace agreement.

According to a communique issued today by the Presidency's public relations office, Minister Gramajo said that "there is nothing wrong in allowing a communist party to operate." However, he pointed out that the subversive elements are currently having problems recruiting fighters because the Army is keeping this situation under control.

Honduras

Azcona Addresses Nation on Independence Day

PA171458 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0048 GMT 16 Sep 87

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 15 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—Honduran President Jose Azcona Hoyo said today that liberty, sovereignty, and integrity are not gifts or things given to the people by luck or chance. The president was addressing the Honduran people on a radio and television network on the occasion of the 166th anniversary of Central America's independence from Spain on 15 September 1821.

Azcona added that throughout the life of the Republic, "we have learned that the attributes of civilized countries are achievements their citizens have made through work, effort, and, very often, sacrifice."

"We have also learned that independence is not an unchanging political situation but a process of economic and social development that depends primarily on the persevering work and cooperation the citizens of any nation contribute to the common good," the Honduran president said.

He stressed that the 166th anniversary of Central America's independence marks the most historic moment in the independent existence of the five countries, which were originally part of a single fatherland united by geography, common origin, and the immortal ideals of liberty and justice. Azcona said that this year the independence anniversary coincides with the efforts and struggle for peace the Central American countries are making together to create an environment of social harmony and peaceful coexistence.

He noted that these efforts will enable the five countries to develop their potential without useless confrontations that confuse and dishearten the Central American peoples. Due to diverse circumstances, these peoples are predestined to achieve common and fundamental objectives in their development, he noted.

Azcona said the peace agreement signed by the five Central American presidents on 7 August in Guatemala marked the rational and definite beginning of "our autonomous political thinking and our commitment to cooperation and joint development within the framework of participative and pluralistic democracy."

The Honduran president feels democracy will allow the participation of all groups in politics, the economy, business, culture, and society without curtailing the peoples' fundamental liberties and principles. "A political regime based on repression and anguish cannot be the right environment to shape and promote the process of social well-being for which all the world's peoples long and to which they are entitled," he noted. Azcona said a totalitarian regime cannot suit the nature of individuals who were created to be free and to earnestly and joyfully seek individual and collective happiness.

Azcona said Central America, as a developing region and as the strategic point for defending democracy in the continent, urges its fellow citizens to take greater interest in reinforcing and promoting their more authentic values. The president remarked that the commemoration of Independence Day provides an opportunity to invoke

the spirit of the Honduran people's struggle. He said this spirit should aim to achieve the highest social well-being possible without discrimination and with only deep Honduran sentiments in mind.

U.S. Envoy Busby To Hold Talks With Azcona

PA172100 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1130 GMT 17 Sep 87

[Text] Morris Busby, special White House envoy for Central America,arrived unexpectedly yesterday in Tegucigalpa to meet with President Azcona. The meeting lasted 1 hour and 30 minutes and dealt with the agreements to achieve peace recently signed by the Central American presidents in Guatemala.

A major incident occurred nearby between local newsmen and the diplomat's bodyguards at the door of the presidential office.

Panama

Noriega Criticizes Plan To 'Destabilize' Nation

PA180222 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Sep 87

[Text] The commander in chief of the Defense Forces returned last night. He was welcomed by cabinet ministers, legislators, friends, and members of his general staff. Upon his arrival at the Panamanian Air Force terminal, the high-ranking military officer made the following statements:

[Begin recording] [Noriega] When we arrived here we saw the plan to destabilize Panama, which includes a section on misinformation. Panama is living with aggression and I have charged that this aggression against Panama includes a misinformation plan. $18 million is being invested in this plan, and this includes agencies [not further identified] men, and news items to which Panama cannot reply. The Mexican people, who are patriotic, nationalist people with a long history of offenses, supported Panama wholeheartedly.

[Reporter] We have reports that there was proof of Mexican support for Panama.

[Noriega] Look, this is something unbelievable, during the [Mexican] independence festivities, a group of people, not Panamanians, went out on the street carrying flags and chanting slogans to support Panama. They picketed and carried out other actions to show that virile countries remain, and virile men are the ones who remain in power. [end recording]

Further on CNN Reporter's Expulsion

PA171423 Paris AFP in Spanish 0452 GMT 17 Sep 87

[Text] Panama, 16 Sep (AFP)—The Panamanian Government today asked CNN correspondent Lucia Newman to "leave the country as soon as possible," warning if she does not "she will be subjected to abuse and humiliation."

Newman was summoned at midday today by Osvaldo Gudino, communications director at the Government and Justice Ministry, who informed her of the government's decision. A Justice Ministry source told AFP Newman would have to leave within 12 hours, but the reporter denied this deadline had been set.

"He told me if I do not leave the country as soon as possible, I will be mistreated and humiliated," said Newman, who nevertheless seemed hopeful "the government will reverse its decision."

The U.S. reporter, who has lived in Panama for the past 2 years, was accused on 12 August by Panama Defense Forces Chief General Manuel Antonio Noriega himself of "contributing to disinformation" regarding the crisis that has shaken the country. "I have not been given an explanation for this decision," Newman said, adding that in the past few months she has been attacked by the government as well as by the opposition Civic Crusade, which is struggling to oust Noriega.

Newman said her boyfriend, Demetrio Olaciregui, correspondent of the Mexican newspaper *Excelsior* and news director of the government Radio Nacional, was dismissed from the latter post last Monday. "Both the opposition and the government have been making charges against us and pressuring us to support their positions," Newman said.

Since the Panamanian crisis broke out 4 months ago, the government has intensified its controls on the press, closing three newspapers and three radio stations on 27 July. The government accused the *La Prensa, El Siglo* and *El Extra* newspapers and the Sonora, KW Continente, and Mundial radio stations of supporting the opposition's "seditious coup attempts."

Government Denies Actions

PA180334 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0153 GMT 18 Sep 87

[Text] Panama City, 17 Sep (ACAN-EFE) The Panamanian Government today denied that U.S. journalist Lucia Newman has been ordered to leave Panama "as soon as possible," as she told ACAN-EFE yesterday.

The Government and Justice Ministry has explained that Newman, Cable News Network's (CNN) correspondent here, has violated a law on foreign journalists by continuing her activities without being duly registered.

However, the journalist believes that her "latest sin" was to have reported on the violence that resulted from an opposition march in the outskirts of the capital this past Sunday. As a result of the violence one person died and several other were wounded by bullets.

Newman said that she saw how Carlos Guzman Baules, 49, died, and how "progovernment paramilitary" elements broke-up the demonstration with bullets, and she told what she saw to CNN.

Meanwhile, the Government and Justice Ministry stated in an explanatory document that Newman was registered in Panama as a foreign journalist of the U.S. television network until 15 August. The ministry added: "Lucia Newman continued sending reports abroad after that date and many times she did not report the truth about the true political and social situation in the country, and this journalist was not duly registered."

The National Media Directorate on 16 September summoned the U.S. journalist to inform her "that she cannot continue functioning as a foreign correspondent in our country."

The official source said that as long as the U.S. journalist "keeps her current status with the Immigration Department effective, she can continue living in the nation."

The media directorate has stated that "it is important to state that CNN is free to appoint another foreign correspondent to Panama as long as he complies with Panamanian laws regulating journalism."

Lucia Newman is chief of the Latin America section of CNN. She has been living in Panama for the past 18 months.

Ministry Responds to Embassy Note on Miller

PA180050 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Sep 87

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has responded to a note from the U.S. Embassy regarding the incidents of Sunday, 13 September, in San Miguelito district.

In his note, Foreign Minister Jorge Abadia points out that the Foreign Ministry regrets the arrest of U.S. commercial adviser David Miller but at the same time notes that this U.S. official was arrested while participating as a private citizen in a political demonstration, the objective of which was replacing the Panamanian Government by a de facto regime.

In his note, the foreign minister notes that Article 41 of the Geneva Convention states that people who enjoy diplomatic privileges and immunity must respect the laws and rules of the host state and that they have the obligation not to meddle in the domestic affairs of that state.

The Foreign Ministry document states that the Panamanian Government has irrefutable evidence that Mr Miller was participating in the demonstration not as an observer but as a private citizen.

The foreign minister's note concludes by asking the U.S. Embassy to order its personnel to abstain from participating in and being partial with demonstrations aimed at overthrowing the constituted branches of the Panamanian state. The document also states that regarding the incident of Sunday, 13 September, adequate measures will be adopted as a result of the investigations that have been carried out.

PDC's Arias: No National Dialogue Possible

PA160443 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 15 Sep 87

[Text] Ricardo Arias Calderon, president of the Panamanian Christian Democratic Party [PDC], has said that under the current situation, no national dialogue is possible.

[Begin recording] [Arias] We have maintained and will continue to maintain a profoundly nonviolent attitude, because we do not want Panama to have to endure the destruction and death that other sister nations are experiencing. The sole way to guarantee this is to make the deep changes the people are demanding and to make them now, through peaceful means.

[Reporter] Is there currently any kind of rapprochement between the government and the opposition?

[Arias] None at all, because there cannot be a rapprochement with a regime that threatens the media and keeps it closed. [end recording]

Argentina

Debt Refinancing Agreement Reached With Italy

PY171229 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2345 GMT 15 Sep 87

[Text] Rome, 15 Sep (TELAM-ANSA)—The Argentine Embassy in Rome today announced that Argentina and Italy have agreed to refinance all capital, and interest rates, maturing from 1986 to 1988, totalling some $100 million.

These maturities are part of the financial operations carried out by the public and private sectors and guaranteed by SACE [expansion unknown], the official Italian institute which insures all export credits.

The maturities will be refinanced under a 10 and 1/2-year term, including a 6-year grace period for the payment of capital owed.

Argentina and Italy have agreed to refinance the interest on maturities expiring up to 30 April for a 4-year term, with a 2-year grace period.

Alfredo Allende, Argentine ambassador to the Italian Government, has said that in addition to those signed with the FRG and Spain, this is the 3d agreement Argentina has achieved within the framework of the Paris Club.

Allende also said that the fact that we have been able to achieve this agreement under reasonable terms is further evidence of Italy's support for Argentina.

Cooperation Agreement Signed with Uruguay

PY170214 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1319 GMT 16 Sep 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Sep (TELAM)—In White Hall at Government House today, Dante Caputo and Enrique Iglesias, the foreign ministers of Argentina and Uruguay, signed the so-called Buenos Aires Document, which sponsors integration and exchange in the River Plate Basin in the fields of economics, geopolitics, culture, science, and tourism.

Among other aspects, the document advocates the establishment of a single border control office and a unified documentation system as of next December, as well as the construction of a Buenos Aires-Colonia bridge. Argentina has also agreed to sell Uruguay an annual minimum of 100,000 tons of wheat in 1988 and 1989.

The Buenos Aires Document in its nine articles calls for border, agricultural, and livestock cooperation; physical integration; agreements for the control of drug trafficking; cultural, technical, and scientific integration; enviromental preservation; cooperation between the two foreign ministries; and legal and tourist cooperation.

Regarding border cooperation, the document suggests improving on the unified documentation and single border control office project, as well as extending customs and immigration jurisdiction of one country into the territory of the other. This is considered a unique system in the region, and it will allow carrying out immigration and customs procedures within the same building.

This system will be put into practice next December at the Salto Grande and Fray Bentos border crossing. The two foreign ministries will study the adaptation of infrastructure in Paysandu in order to implement the system as soon as possible.

Regarding the establishment of border committees on both sides of the Uruguay River, the NAA [expantion unknow] establishes that the following meetings take place: on next 16 October at the Salto-Concordia border crossing, on 16 November at the Paysandu-Colon crossing, and on 16 December at the Fray Bentos-Gualeguaychu crossing.

The Buenos Aires Document points out the increase in the number of immigration cards issued between the two countries since the Montevideo Document was signed on 26 May, when President Raul Alfonsin visited Uruguay.

Regarding the cooperation committee for border regional development, the Buenos Aires Document establishes the terms for the organization and implementation of the committee. It also acknowledges the aid for this project from the ECLA, the UNDP [United Nations Development Program], and the IDB.

Physical Integration

The Buenos Aires Document points out the work done by the binational committee, which did the feasibility study for the Buenos Aires-Colonia Bridge. Three alternatives to this project are mentioned: one through the Argentine delta region; and two others through the River Plate, with bridgeheads established either north or south of the Argentine Federal Capital and in the area near Colonia, Uruguay.

Regarding road transportation, the appropriate organizations are ordered to present to their ministries, within 30 days, suggestions to increase the 10,000-ton cargo limit [not further explained].

The document remarks on the progress attained by Aerolineas Argentinas and PLUNA [Uruguayan National Airlines]. It also remarks on the imminent increase of flights of the Lineas Aereas Privadas Argentinas (LAPA) to important Uruguayan cities, connecting them with Argentina provinces.

Regarding the supply of wheat, the document states that throughout 1988 and 1989, the Argentine National Grain Board promises to reserve at least 100,000 tons of wheat to sell to Uruguay. It points out the possibility of complementarity in the cold-storage industry and the possibility of fully meeting beef-import quotas for beef intended for high-price international markets.

Regarding the production, processing, and sale of seeds, the document states that a technical meeting in preparation for the 12th Panamerican seminar on seeds must take place from 2 to 6 November 1986 in Montevideo.

Concerning the struggle to control agricultural diseases and pests, the document states that technical preparatory meetings must take place next month in Concordia before a final agreement is signed on this subject.

About the financing of agricultural and livestock projects, the document states that joint negotiations will be undertaken at international organizations in order to obtain financial and technical aid to carry out the cooperation projects and studies agreed upon by the two countries.

The Buenos Aires document points out the achievements of the struggle to control drug trafficking. The document also states that the meeting between the two foreign ministers in July 1987 allowed them to gain detailed knowledge of nuclear and disarmament subjects.

Cooperation between the universities and the CONICET [National Council for Scientific and Technological Research] are also mentioned in the document, as are the studies on migratory movements and perspectives that have been carried out.

The document reasserts the spirit of the Montevideo Document regarding the need to prevent, investigate, and combat water pollution by hydrocarbons and other harmful substances.

In conclusion, the document remarks on the progress made in legal and tourist industry cooperation.

New Minister Tonelli Views Labor Issues

PY171927 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2315 GMT 16 Sep 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Sep (TELAM)—Ideler Tonelli, new labor and social security minister, has reported that he will meet with the CGT [General Confederation of Labor] board right after assuming his post on 18 September, and that he will promote the prompt approval of the drafted labor bills.

Tonelli has asserted that he is willing to hold dialogue in view of the present situation. He added that he will exhaust all dialogue possibilities to avoid conflicts.

Departing from Government House after being sworn in as new labor and social security minister, Tonelli stated that he will tell CGT leaders that workers will always be welcome in his office. He added that he will do everything in his power to have the labor draft bills approved as soon as possible.

CGT Criticizes Tonelli

PY171748 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2336 GMT 16 Sep 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Sep (DYN)—The CGT [General Confederation of Labor] feels that with Ideler Tonelli heading the Labor Ministry "there will be no justice for the workers because their rights will be at the mercy of the management at the Economy Ministry." It adds that the newly appointed labor minister "is more interested in the disease than in the patient."

In a communique signed by Saul Ubaldini, the CGT stated that "the people are sick and tired and can no longer tolerate the repeated attacks on the economy, which stem from the government's insensitive and authoritarian economic management through a new Cabinet reshuffle."

The CGT has asked what kind of a dialogue the government intends to conduct with the labor movement "when it appoints as labor minister a man who from the very beginning admits that he is a mere cover up for those who are responsible for the social crisis."

The communique adds: "The Economy Ministry will administer the last rites to the workers' rights, which the pro-IMF technocrats want to destroy."

It adds that "after administering the justice secretariat, the new minister will now administer social injustice. There is no doubt that the cards are on the table, and that there is no hope for the workers."

The CGT has asked Tonelli "to meditate and change," and reminded him that the Labor Ministry "should administer labor and social policy founded on the principle of social justice. The CGT demands that this policy be an essential factor of economic planning and not a variable of adjustment to international dependency and usury."

PJ Leaders Issue Document Stating Views

PY171524 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2352 GMT 16 Sep 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Sep (TELAM)—The Justicialist Party [PJ] governors-elect, district presidents, union members, and congressmen, who met here for 2 days have stressed that, on ratifying their principal politicians in their posts, the government has turned a deaf ear to the verdict of the ballot boxes.

In their document, the PJ leaders urge the government to rectify its errors. They question financial, military and labor policies, and demand a federal pact, which they consider should be achieved before the drafting of a new constitution.

The document was released to the press by Jose de la Sota, Carlos Groso, Miguel Toma, Julio Corzo, Roberto Garcia, Roberto Digon, Olga Flores, and Raul Carignano, in the offices of the PJ bloc of national deputies during a press conference. Antonio Cafiero and Carlos Menem did not participate.

After stating their decision to support the government, they maintain that the UCR [Radical Civic Union] will administer the national executive branch, while the PJ will administer the provinces that it has won. In Congress there will be either consensus or dissent.

They reiterate their questioning of the economic policy and the negotiations with the IMF. They also call for a moratorium and say that part of the public debt be condoned, but that the private sector debt must be paid.

They state that speculation must be eliminated and they support strict austerity in order to reduce nonproductive state expenditures and squandering. De la Sota gave the Buenos Aires-La Plata thruway as an example.

They demand workers' rights to collective bargaining and the administration of their social works. They also demand that the governors have equal rights to participate in national decisions.

Regarding the Armed Forces, they acknowledged that the chain of command must be reorganized, but that it is not a task for the government alone, and less so for the Armed Forces.

After refloating the demand for a bichamber and multisectorial commission to undertake the task of integrating the people with the Armed Forces, they promote an acknowledgement of the past, which, according to Toma, would not mean acknowledging the repression that occurred during the past de facto government.

Addressing the international community, they especially emphasize that voting is constructive and reject the fantasy of authoritarianism. They conclude by stating that during a crisis no one wins and the people lose.

Paper Previews Price Deregulation Measures

PY152113 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1156 GMT 15 Sep 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Sep (NA)—According to a newspaper report, the following measures will be implemented under the government's new economic program: All assets will be taxed; public utility rates will be increased by about 10 percent; and no customs tariffs will be levied on cigarrette imports. Moreover, customs fees on paper imports will be greatly reduced, and domestic manufacturers will have to adjust their prices to compete with imported cellulose-based products.

The newspaper *Ambito Financiero* today says these are "the first price deregulation accords," which "will probably take effect at the end of October or early in November."

Concerning cigarettes, the newspaper says local manufacturers agreed to lift the tariffs in return for the authorization to freely set their prices.

The paper says, however, that "tariffs on tobacco will not be lifted."

Concerning the iron-and-steel sector, the paper reports that a price deregulation accord is about to be concluded, but it will not include all products because of the "dumping" [preceding word in English] practices in the world market.

Ambito Financiero says: "In all cases, despite the lifting or reduction of tariffs, the 10-percent tax on imports will be maintained. For exclusively fiscal purposes, this tax will be regulated by decree."

The announced measures include the abolition of Annex II, which lists products requiring previous import authorization.

The paper says that to compensate for the reduction in GNP—which fell by 7 percent or 2 and 1/2 times the figure that was estimated in the national budget—all types of assets will be taxed. The new taxes must be approved by Congress.

A mechanism will be sought to balance the large price fluctuations on the internal market throughout the year.

As for taxes, fuels will be a main source of revenue because fuel prices will be increased by approximately 10 percent in a few days.

Chile

Pinochet Meets With RSA Air Force Chief

PY170318 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 16 Sep 87

[Text] Marxism will not stop until it conquers the entire world and we will not permit that to happen.

This comment was made by Lieutenant General Denis John Earp, South African Air Force commander in chief who was invited by the FACH [Chilean Air Force] to attend the independence day festivities.

General Fernando Matthei reported that Lt Gen Earp met with President Pinochet and that they discussed several issues of mutual concern.

[Begin Matthei recording, in progress]...the ties between Chile and South Africa, how to cope with the embargo problems we are facing, and how to enhance mutual cooperation in every aspect. [end recording]

Lt Gen Earp emphasized the good relations between the air forces of the two countries. He added that South Africa has always admired the Chilean people and the energetic way in which the Chilean Government has met the meddling in its domestic affairs and communism.

Pinochet Discusses Development, Plebiscite

PY170315 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 16 Sep 87

[Text] President Pinochet has emphasized that the country will enjoy democracy and that threats to impair this process will be useless. He stressed that the government has modernized the nation and has sought ways to meet the people's demands by implementing an economic system that has permitted the country to reach its current level.

Speaking to Rotarians at a luncheon to mark the Army Glories anniversary, Pinochet said no one can ignore Chile's performance in the macroeconomic area, which is perfectly good, although there may be some problems in this area.

Pinochet thoroughly reviewed the Chilean sociopolitical situation in the past few years, pointing out the regional development achievements and its influence on housing, health, and education.

President Pinochet discussed the seven goals that will permit Chile to enter the 21st century as an industrialized nation, a nation with a new image.

The chief executive reasserted that we are heading toward a democracy.

[Begin recording] [Pinochet, in progress] .. (?strange] that we are heading toward a democracy. [passage indistinct] A democracy that will permit us to enjoy democracy, which is the main point, because when we are threatened [passage indistinct] because we will enjoy democracy here and when they threaten us we [words indistinct] [end recording]

In his speech to the Rotarians, President Pinochet stressed that in the 21st century Chile should be able to conduct negotiations with any country in the world.

In conclusion, Pinochet discussed the decision that the voters will have to make in the constitutional plebiscite.

[Begin Pinochet recording] [Sentence indistinct] However, at the end of this stage it is up to you to make a decision, a decision to go backwards or forwards. [passage indistinct] It is your decision, not mine. [end recording]

General Miguel Espinoza, who represented the Army, also made a speech at the Rotary Club Army Glories ceremony.

Gen Espinoza recalled that Chile is meeting cruel and merciless actions sponsored by international communism and encouraged by Soviet imperialism. He said ignoring this would be tantamount to ignoring world events after World War II.

In conclusion, Gen Espinoza said the Chilean Army remains alert, doing its best for the fatherland.

PRC To Supply Uranium for Nuclear Reactor

PY180339 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Sep 87

[Text] The Chilean Nuclear Energy Commission [CCEN] has reported that the PRC will supply enriched uranium—U-235—to Chile to process fuel for the second Chilean experimental reactor.

The pertinent shipment will be made before the end of 1987 when the 10-megawatt experimental reactor goes into operation.

Yesterday in Vienna the IAEA approved a safeguard agreement by which Chile voluntarily subjects itself to IAEA inspections. The safeguard agreement guarantees the world community that the PRC uranium will be used for absolutely peaceful purposes.

Minister Views U.S. Protectionist Measures

PY161854 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 16 Sep 87

[Text] The country is concerned over increasing U.S. protectionist measures because Chile has important trade relations with that country. Economy Minister Manuel Concha made this statement during a speech to the Chilean-U.S. Chamber of Commerce at a downtown hotel ceremony to commemorate Chile's independence.

Minister Concha discussed Chile's economic development and increasing U.S. protectionist measures.

[Begin Concha recording] Taking into account the importance of foreign trade for Chile's economic development, I would like to say that our country, as in previous years, is concerned over the proliferation of non-tariff protectionist measures. In addition to harming our trade, these measures are shrouded in such strict secrecy that it is often difficult to establish how much these protectionist measures affect certain products.

In addition to the heavy foreign debt burden most developing countries are shouldering, these protectionist measures not only keep developing nations from further exploiting their own resources, but from fulfilling their foreign commitments by eliminating the only reasonable alternative they have to do so. [end recording]

At this point, foreign financial support is vital, Concha added. The lack of this support will surely impose more sacrifices on developing nations. He then referred to some U.S. politicians who recently tried to impose economic sanctions in Chile:

[Begin recording] When we hear that the United States, in connection with some Chilean political sectors, is again trying to impose sanctions on Chile, it is very encouraging for us to hear people like you in the Chilean-U.S. Chamber of Commerce speak up about the country's real situation, and reject those protectionist measures that are in fact economic sanctions on the poorest sectors, thus creating a climate of instability. [end recording]

He also referred to trade relations between the United States and Chile. He said the United States is the main purchaser of Chilean products, as well as the supplier of goods and services Chile needs.

The economy minister concluded by saying that bilateral trade favors Chile, but it has yet to reflect its potential to increase.

PDC Formally Registers as Political Party

PY161827 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 16 Sep 87

[Text] The Christian Democratic Party [PDC] has formalized its registration as a political party at the Electoral Board Office. National Adviser Adolfo Zaldivar has presented the formal application and stated that his party has set 31 January 1988 as a deadline for collecting the 33,000 signatures as required by law.

Zaldivar said registration is very important and all national sectors should do it. He added that his party has taken this step as a gesture of reconciliation.

Fraud Reported in Voting Registration Lists

PY171919 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 17 Sep 87

[Report from Government House by Graciela Contreras]

[Excerpts] Today, Juan Ignacio Garcia, director of the National Voting Registration Office, denounced that there have been cases of fraud detected in voting registration lists. He added that about 10 cases of double registration have been detected in the voting lists of the Metropolitan Region. The official said that the electoral office has filed the proper charges before the courts.

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] [Unidentified reporter] How were these fraud cases practiced? Were names or identification card numbers duplicated?

[Garcia] Yes, both identification card numbers and names were repeated.

[Reporter] How were you able to detect that these belonged to the same person?

[Garcia] We detected these fraud cases when we entered the data in the computer which detects these cases.

[Reporter] How long does it take you to detect a fraud?

[Garcia] Once the respective data is entered into the computer the fraud is immediately detected.

[Reporter] Is it automatic then?

[Garcia] Yes, it is. [passage omitted] [end recording]

The director of the voting registration office added that to date a total of about 2.3 million people have registered. [passage omitted]

Request To Release Journalists Turned Down

PY152307 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0413 GMT 15 Sep 87

[Text] Santiago, 14 Sep (EFE)—A military judge today turned down a request to release Marcelo Contreras and Sergio Marras on bail. They are the director and deputy director, respectively, of *Apsi*, an opposition magazine, and they have been in jail for 3 weeks.

Military Judge Lorenzo Andrade turned down the request because there are pending legal proceedings. The journalists' lawyers immediately appealed the decision before a military court.

The journalists went to jail after the government filed a lawsuit against them when the magazine tried to publish an issue ridiculing President General Augusto Pinochet, who was compared to King Louis XVI.

The issue could not hit the streets, because on 19 August, the day before it was to be sold to the public, the police seized the 30,000 extra issues of the magazine.

The Interior Ministry charged that *Apsi* slandered Gen Pinochet, in his capacity as army commander in chief.

University of Chile Rector Fires 35 Professors

PY180159 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Sep 87

[Text] (Patricio Basso), president of the association of University of Chile professors, and 34 other professors have been fired. The measure was taken by University of Chile Rector Jose Luis Federici in keeping with the powers provided in the university statutes.

The University of Chile Public Relations Department reported that the measure was adopted so activities at the University of Chile would return to normal.

(Inigo Diaz), vice president of the association of University of Chile professors, was also fired.

Former PCCH Deputy Arrested for Terrorism

PY172137 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 8 Sep 87 p C9

[Text] As a result of the dragnet operations that have been conducted to find Lieutenant Colonel Carlos Carreno, who was kidnapped one week ago by terrorists of the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front [FPMR], police have arrested Mario Riquelme Munoz, former deputy of the Communist Party of Chile [PCCH]. Munoz was arrested in his house located at 8010 Los Claveles Street in San Ramon neighborhood.

Riquelme was a deputy for Antofagasta, his house was believed to be an FPMR mail drop.

Inside the house police found a 38-caliber revolver with 100 rounds; 23 9mm bullets; 1 kg of AN-FO [a low cost explosive made of ammonium nitrate fuel oil blasting agents]; 4 kg of chemical powder; 0.450 kg of dynamite; first aid kits; and Marxist literature.

Riquelme Munoz was placed at the disposal of the 3d Military Court, charged with violating the Arms and Explosive Law. Humilde Garcia, Riquelme's wife, was released.

Yesterday police reported that Sergio Enrique Munoz, Julio Rivera Urra, and Luis Ernesto Tricot Novoa have been arrested in keeping with procedings ordered by

Prosecutor Patricio Acevedo, chief of the 3d Military Court.

Sociologist Indicted for Violating Arms Law

PY150345 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 14 Sep 87

[Text] Sociologist Luis Tricot, who was arrested in a raid following the kidnapping of Lieutenant Colonel Carlos Carreno, has been indicted for violating the law controlling weapons and explosives, according to Hernan Rodriguez, an attorney for the Vicariate of Solidarity.

Rodriguez added that Tricot's wife, Rocio Reyes, a sociology student, has been released. Luis Tricot and his wife were arrested by the police on 3 September at their home on Montenegro Street in the Nunoa district. Tricot's alleged involvement in Col Carreno's kidnapping is being investigated by military prosecutor Luis Acevedo.

Attorney Rodriguez reported that the military prosecutor indicted Luis Tricot last Saturday, lifting the incommunicado status. On 10 September, the military prosecutor released Tricot's wife, Rocio Reyes, who is 5 months pregnant. It has not been reported for what crime the sociologist is being held in preventive custody. Apparently, his arrest is not linked to the kidnapping of Col Carreno in view of the fact that he has not been placed at the disposal of military prosecutor Fernando Torres, who is investigating Carreno's kidnapping.

Chile

Barco Recovering in Seoul, May Return 26 Sep

PA160458 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Sep 87

[Text] President Virgilio Barco continues recovering in Seoul, Korea from the surgery he underwent 8 days ago due to intestinal problems. Everyone is wondering when the president will return to Colombia. Everything seems to indicate it will not be this week, but probably next Tuesday. If he does leave on Tuesday, President Barco will make two stopovers prior to returning to Bogota, following doctor's orders.

President Barco might thus be returning on Friday, 26 September. President Barco will probably be unable to work when he returns. This will lead to two changes: First, Foreign Minister Julio London, who is temporarily replacing him, will probably not continue acting in this post; second, presidential designate Victor Mosquera Chaux will probably be installed as president. Legally, Mr Mosquera can replace the president when the latter requests leave or is sick.

Discussions With Venezuela on Oil Exploration

PA112004 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 1730 GMT 11 Sep 87

[Text] Venezuelan petroleum officials are holding talks with Colombian government officials and discussing the possibility of conducting joint oil exploration along the border area.

Disregarding the Colombian-Venezuelan border dispute, the two countries today began a plan to strengthen trade and border cooperation in order to conduct joint oil exploration along the border. For this purpose and at the invitation of Colombian Mines and Energy Minister Guillermo Perry Rubio, the chairmen of the Colombian and Venezuelan oil enterprises met at noon today at the Foreign Ministry with the acting foreign minister to seek an agreement in principle on fuel oil marketing and on oil exploration along the border. They have not ruled out the possibility of such joint oil exploration taking place in the near future.

Acting President Meets Figures on 'Death List'

PA162027 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1701 GMT15 Sep 87

[Text] Bogota, 15 Sep (DPA)—General Miguel Maza Marquez, director of the Administrative Department of Security (DAS), has acknowledged that in Colombia there are more than five lists of people "sentenced to death" by paramilitary groups and that more than 80 people have been targeted by the gangsters.

Maza Marquez pointed out that the number of death lists and targeted people may be even greater, but his department disregards some of the lists because, it seems, their sole aim is "psychological terror" against their victims.

The people whose names appear on one of the best known "lists" met yesterday for more than 4 hours with acting President Julio Londono Paredes, whom they asked "to consider the increasing violence against freedom of expression and criticism as an essentially political and national problem, implemented by methods characteristic of a dirty war."

Among those threatened with death who met with Londono Paredes are Alfredo Vasquez Carrizosa, president of the Human Rights Committee and a former foreign minister; General Jose Joaquin Matallana, retired; leftist Senators Alberto Rojas Puyo and Hernando Hurtado; artists Patricia Ariza and Marilu Arango; Jaime Pardo Leal, a former leftist presidential candidate; Ivan Marulanda Gomez, a New Liberalism [dissident faction of the ruling Liberal Party] congressman; Apolinar Diaz Callejas, a former Liberal congressman; and Gonzalo Bermudez Rossi, a retired military officer.

Also present at the meeting were writer Arturo Alape and reporters Edelmiro Franco, Ligia Riveros, Antonio Caballero, Jorge Child, Maria Luisa Mejia, and Attorney Eduardo Umana Luna, all of whom have received death threats.

During the meeting, "the campaign to frighten and discredit ideological, intellectual, political, and journalistic groups and movements was reported by the targeted people, who noted a widening in the concept of "subversion" and a reduction in democratic freedom in Colombia."

The people on the "list" either are leftist or have objected to Armed Forces actions, especially regarding human rights.

According to those "sentenced," Londono Paredes acknowledged the seriousness of the problem and announced measures "to end the terrorist groups' actions."

8 Politicians, Peasants Killed in 'Dirty War'

PA161833 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1915 GMT 15 Sep 87

[Text] Bogota, 15 Sep (EFE)—Eight new deaths during the last 24 hours have been reported in the "dirty war" that unknown organizations carry out in Colombia against left-wing leaders, trade unionists, or any person considered ideologically dangerous.

Arturo Betancur, councilman of the left-leaning Patriotic Union (UP), was murdered. He was from Victoria Municipality, Caldas Department, and is the 467th UP member to be killed in the 2 years since the party was founded.

Also murdered were Augusto Gomez Escobar, Social Conservative Party deputy from Valle Department, and Apolinar Hernandez, trade union leader and negotiator for the Uraba banana workers trade union.

Cali community leader Graciela Varela was shot in the head while traveling on a bus. Four peasants from Ocana, Santander Department, who were on a list of 77 people whose lives have been threatened, were shot to death.

The murders were carried out in Colombia's four most important regions. They come after yesterday's statement by Colonel Miguel Maza Marquez, director of the Administrative Department of Security (DAS), that more than 200 people in Colombia have received death threats and investigations have begun to discover who is behind these threats.

Attorney General Investigates Armed Forces

PA172144 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 17 Sep 87

[Text] Bogota — The Attorney General's Office has informed the Armed Forces that several of its members are being investigated for their alleged participation in the mistreatment and death of Patriotic Union [UP] members. The announcement said that there are 26 cases under investigation.

Acting Attorney General (Omar Henry Velasco) said that members of the Armed Forces are being investigated for their participation in violations of human rights.

Regarding the murder in Meta of UP Senator Pedro Noel Jimenez, the Attorney General's Office confirmed that charges have been filed against members of the Army stationed at the 7th Brigade, and that an investigation has been ordered against Lieutenant Miller Tarciso Coy and Sergeant Sergio Tulio Luna Medina.

The Attorney General's Office said that some of the 26 disciplinary investigations have been retrieved from the files, but that they are all under investigation. The final decision will be announced in the next few days.

The cases were classified by area, as follows: six in Meta; three in Antioquia; two in Huila, Tolima, and Cundinamarca; and one in Bogota, Norte de Santander, Cesar, Casanare, Caldas, and Santander [figures as heard].

ELN, CNG To Form Alliance with FARC

PA131830 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Sep 87

[Excerpts] The unity of the guerrilla groups that operate in the country has been announced. This has very negative implications for the country's poor progress regarding peace.

How was this alliance achieved? Antonio Morales gives us a full report on this:

[Begin recording] The last two groups to hold talks—FARC and the ELN [Army of National Liberation]—ironed out their differences, which in the past had led them to armed clashes on more than one occasion. [passage omitted]

Today, the ELN and the National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNG] announced an impending alliance with FARC headed by Manuel Marulanda and Jacobo Arenas. It is estimated that if this unity is achieved, the Colombian guerrilla movement, with approximately 80 fronts and 10,000 fighters, would be under a unified command and a political structure that is more or less similar. However, a cease-fire agreement with FARC is still in effect. [end recording]

13 Soldiers Wounded by Mines in Antioquia

PA162343 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Sep 87

[Excerpts] Several soldiers are recovering after they stepped on mines yesterday when they entered a camp that had been abandoned by suspected FARC members near El Bagre, Antioquia Department. The soldiers of the Cordoba Infantry Battalion had been pursuing the subversives since the night before. Here is a report from Barranquilla:

[Begin reporter Jorge Cura recoridng] Two of the 13 soldiers injured in El Bagre are in a coma. According to doctors at the Northern General Clinic in Barranquilla, the other soldiers are recovering satisfactorily. [passage omitted]

The wounded soldiers recounted that it was a terrible experience. They thought they were going to attack a guerrilla camp, but when they arrived, it had been

abandoned and mined. When they entered, the mines began to explode. This squad of the 2d Brigade, headquartered in Barranquilla, was in Antioquia to reinforce 4th Brigade troops. They had been deployed there because of the shortage of personnel in the Antioquia brigade. [end recording]

M-19 Occupies 5-PM Newspaper Office in Bogota

PA172130 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1555 GMT 17 Sep 87

[Text] Bogota, 17 Sep (EFE)—Thirty M-19 guerrillas occupied the installations of the evening newspaper "5 PM" in Bogota early this morning, remained inside for 4 hours, printed a special edition of 15,000 copies, and left without firing a single shot.

The action was led by Commander "Camilo," who said that the action was called "Hector Abad Gomez Operation for Life and Peace," and that its purpose was to announce publicly an M-19 peace proposal to the Colombian people.

The daily's director Guillermo Velez reported the incident at 1030 local time (1530 GMT). He said that the guerrillas—men and women—re-editted the newspaper completely, except for the editorial and the movie announcements, inserting graphic and written material.

Ecuador

Cordero Speech on Economic Growth, Policies

PA152332 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 0100 GMT 15 Sep 87

[Speech by President Leon Febres Cordero live; place not given—broadcast in progress]

[Text]...of the electoral campaign, which stated the urgent need for national reconstruction. This goal fell within the framework of the Ecuadoran reality of earlier years. Distressing compromises were made. There was a serious deterioration of democratic institutions. Economically, the implementation of mistaken policies had created the conditions for a serious crisis, which was worsened by a freeze on foreign credits and the floods caused by El Nino. A little over 3 years of my presidential mandate have passed since then. Thus, I find it essential, timely, and democratic to present myself before the Ecuadoran people, the supreme mandator, to inform them of the work of the government over which I preside. We all know the current government inherited a deep economic crisis. We decided to defeat the crisis by implementing a consistent policy whose leading objective would be to support Ecuadoreans' well-being through liberty and justice.

To do this it was necessary to carry out activities to reactivate the means of production; combat the scourge of inflation; promote national savings by offering investors the confidence they need; create productive jobs; diversify production; rescue the farming sector; and, above all, ensure that our wealth would reach the groups traditionally ignored and isolated. This economic policy was inspired by clear and simple principles. Regarding the exchange rate, it was necessary to adopt a realistic and flexible attitude that would permanently eliminate the problems caused by the trauma of the currency devaluation. In a practical sense, the exchange policy required the allocation of considerable economic resources in order for the rural areas to rescue Ecuador's farming industry and in order to benefit our poorest fellow patriots.

Therefore, this economic policy had to be accompanied by a fair revision of the prices paid to farmers, despite the high and difficult political cost these revisions imply. The exchange policy also had to rationalize the structure and volume of imports. We had to dispense with—to eliminate for once and for all—the clever mechanism of bans on foreign trade that, while creating serious distortions, promoted contraband, the over-invoicing of imports, and all kinds of crimes that violated the state's sovereignty.

The exchange policy had to be aligned with the appropriate financial, credit, and interest rate policies that were in effect. While this subject is quite specialized and, unfortunately, has until recently been the object of controversy at the Constitutional Guarantees Tribunal, our key objectives have remained to encourage national savings, to decrease the dependence of the financial system on the Central Bank of Ecuador, and to promote investment financing using Ecuadoran resources, thus decreasing dangerous dependence on foreign resources which, in the long term, will decrease the foreign debt.

To increase national production, it was necessary to have a price policy that would encourage producers, while maintaining balance and equity. Therefore, despite the fact that real prices were applied, inflation has been kept at manageable levels. The national government has strictly adhered to the legal precepts implicit in several laws, such as the price control and quality law, and the hydrocarbon law, which regulate the prices of products subject to obligatory control, while allowing firms to recover costs; this prevents the emergence of new distortions that ultimately would affect services and promote the reemergence of the well-known black markets, greater shortages, higher prices, and inflation.

A decisive aspect of our responsible management of economic policy is the decision regarding jobs and salaries. A difficult struggle has been waged against certain political forces that have repeatedly tried to promote salary increases which, since they are beyond our real financial possibilities, would have had a painful effect on inflation and unemployment. Nevertheless, we have been able to maintain the purchasing power of salaries. Salaries have been increased to more than the expected inflation rate many times and as often as necessary. In other words, I have fulfilled the commitment made during the electoral campaign. That is why during 3 years of my administration the official minimum wage increased four times, from 6,500 to 8,500 to

10,000 to 12,500, and now stands at 14,500 sucres. The minimum wage is 100-percent higher than when I assumed office.

The economic policy implemented has its virtues, despite the huge loss in resources caused by the drop in the international oil prices over the past, long 20 months, the March earthquake, and the suspension of oil exports for almost 6 months.

Many achievements were made in economic policy during the last 3 months. At least the following achievements must be highlighted:

The first achievement was a diversification of exports to free ourselves from the dependence on oil and to encourage national production. Compelling figures demonstrate that the annual value of nonpetroleum exports rose from $615 million in 1983 to $1.204 billion in 1986. In other words, the value of these exports doubled.

We can estimate that the 1986 level will be maintained or surpassed in 1987, despite the dramatic drop in coffee prices. Analyzing this product-by-product, we can say that banana exports rose from $153 million to $269 million, with the export volume increasing from 910,000 to 1.427 million metric tons. This is a figure that surpasses those reached in any single year of this decade.

Coffee exports went from 75,000 metric tons to 98,000 metric tons, and their value rose from $149 million to $299 million. Cacao bean exports increased from $6 million to $37 million, while processed cacao exports rose from approximately $16 million to $78 million.

Shrimp exports increased from $175 million to $288 million. It is estimated that these exports will surpass $400 million in 1987.

In addition, sea product exports rose from $31 million to $107 million; diversified products exports surpassed $110 million, while in 1983, they reached $73 million.

The figures also indicate an improvement in the country's agricultural and cattle sectors. For this reason, statistics show that home consumer goods, whose production had dropped dramatically to 23 percent in 1983, completely recovered in 1984 and increased by 3.8 percent in 1985 and 8.7 percent in 1986.

All these figures mean that the Ecuadoran people had more food for their survival. From 1983 to 1985, soybean production rose from 14,000 to 63,000 metric tons; bean production increased from 20,000 to 36,000 metric tons; rice production rose from 273,000 to 397,000 metric tons; potato production increased from 314,000 to 423,000 metric tons; corn rose from 229,000 to 371,000 metric tons; and the production of African palm increased from 330,000 to 458,000 metric tons.

I ask you, fellow countrymen: Were all these results achieved by coincidence? Would inflation not have harmed you even more if there had not been a considerable increase in production? Would a slump in agricultural activity not have worsened the situation of the peasants and the cities' crowded conditions? Agricultural policy has not only had positive economic results for the country; it has also had undeniably beneficial social effects in maintaing people's livelihoods, creating many new jobs, and permitting Ecuadoran peasant families to prosper.

A second achievement of fundamental importance deals with the handling of the country's external and financial accounts. Unlike past policies, the foreign debt has been contracted in terms that are advantageous to Ecuador through agreements negotiated with international development institutions or with other governments. The debts contracted by the national government were granted with favorable conditions: with more than 15-year terms; with at least a 4-year grace period for the payment of capital; and with an average interest rate of 7 percent.

With these resources, we were able to support a national effort directed toward national development projects. These projects include the conclusion of the irrigation and hydroelectric system of (Taule)-Peripa, Phase C of the Paute project, the Agoyan hydroelectric plant, the [word indistinct]-Morona road, and the roads included in the sixth road plan. These projects also include programs for agricultural and industrial development and many other housing, health, urban development, technical education, and rural development programs.

During this administration, the country, based on the international prestige achieved as a result of its economic policy, has also achieved the best conditions currently in effect in the international market for refinancing the commercial debt. In addition, it has the unique distinction of being the first and only country in the world to formalize a multiyear refinancing agreement with the governments of the Paris Club.

Despite this, when petroleum prices fell, and when no solution to this situation was in sight within a moderate period, the national government made the political decision to suspend payment of the foreign debt to give priority attention to the urgent needs of the Ecuadoran people. This confirmed the government's firm position that the payment of the country's foreign debt is subordinate to considerations for the country's economic growth and to a guarantee that the climate for international economic relations will be favorable and fair.

In another aspect of the handling of the country's external and financial accounts—specifically that of productive foreign investment—our financial policy has also been pragmatic and fruitful. During these 3 years, foreign investment for petroleum exploration has reemerged, after having been inexplicably abandoned for the past 13 years. Bidding has been opened for prospecting in approximately 4 million hectares in the Amazon and coastal regions and in Ecuador's territorial sea. This has renewed the promise of this resource, the extent and magnitude of which are still unknown in the country.

The savings that you Ecuadoreans have generated have been important to the financing of our national investments. Prior to 10 August 1984, as a result of various financial policies in the country, national savings plummetted. There was a flight of capital and aggressive contracting of foreign debts. As a result, the banks began to depend—in an increasingly more dangerous way—on resources from the Central Bank of Ecuador. Because of this, we decided to make a fundamental change in financial policy to encourage savings and adjust the laws to the demands of a dynamic economy. The easing of controls of interest rates, along with the public's confidence in economic policy management, have led to a tremendous increase in savings. They increased from 29.964 billion sucres at the end of 1983, to 199.9 billion sucres on 30 June 1987. Ecuadoreans, to put it another way, in 3 and 1/2 years, savings account deposits have increased six-fold from the amount prior to the arrival of the current administration.

Therefore, I can state unequivocally that if it had not been for the policy that we drafted and implemented, we would now have a grave escalation in the price of the dollar, a higher rate of inflation, and a generalized crisis in the Ecuadoran financial system.

As a third achievement, I must point out that the management of foreign and financial accounts was closely coordinated with the fiscal budget. Until 1982, state budget deficits were notorious. They were of such magnitude that they reached up to 7 percent of the country's total production. For example, state deficits were equivalent to the total education budget. For our part, we balanced the budget in 1984. For the first time since 1974, when petroleum prices increased four-fold, in 1985 there was a surplus of 2.2 percent of the gross domestic product. In 1986, despite the massive loss of resources because of a drop in oil prices, the budget deficit was maintained at 2.2 percent of the gross domestic product.

Beginning in 1984, the increase in income tax revenues ranged from 37 to 47 percent a year. To make a comparison, in 1982, those revenues dropped 2.6 percent; and in 1983, they registered a modest 19.7 percent increase. The differences are even more marked in sales tax revenues. In 1984 and 1985, the increase in the revenues was 54 and 58 percent, respectively; while in 1986, it was 98 percent when the tax was raised from 6 to 10 percent. Revenues from customs duties greatly surpassed the variations in the exchange rates.

The economic policy has been aimed at achieving a better standard of living for Ecuadoreans, despite the great harm caused by the drop in oil prices and the earthquake in March. Economic policy has had a practical, social application. Thus, the available resources have been invested in programs for basic medicines and preventive health care, in increased educational and training opportunities, in specific programs to promote the creation of jobs, in more specific safeguards against accidents on the job, and in the defense of wage earners' purchasing power.

We have the legitimate satisfaction of being able to state that one of the clearest effects of our policy has been to have the social costs of these economic adjustments and of the oil crisis affect those sectors with the greatest capacity to defend themselves and to respond to these adjustments, thus reducing the negative impact on the vast majority of the Ecuadoran people. This is tangible testimony to our work in the field of economic policy.

Fellow countrymen, you can be sure that in the rest of this administration's term, we will continue and will even increase our work, inspired by the same ideals and with the necessary responsibility and wisdom to make the best decisions in favor of your best interests, and with the unwavering desire to work for the overall progress of Ecuador. Good evening, and thank you for your attention.